



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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Diocese to host precious relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García

As part of its celebration of the three-year national Eucharistic Revival that began in June 2022, the Diocese of Erie is privileged to be one of only 39 dioceses and organizations in the United States to host the relics of two people who were deeply devoted to the Eucharist. They are the relics of Blessed* Carlo Acutis of Italy — well-known as the first millennial to be named a blessed — and St. Manuel González García of Spain, sometimes referred to as the Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle. The relics will be hosted under the auspices of the diocesan Office for Divine Worship.

“It is an extraordinary privilege for us to host the relics of Blessed Carlo and St. Manuel,” said the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie. “I highly encourage all Catholics, and anyone seeking grace and a prayerful experience, to make an effort to visit the relics while they are in the diocese.”

A full schedule of public opportunities to venerate the relics is available under the “Schedule of the Diocesan Relics Tour” tab on this webpage, as is a link explaining what relics are and why they are venerated. The relics will be on display in Erie for several days before then traveling to Warren, St. Marys, Ridgway, DuBois and Oil City.

In addition to the visits at churches throughout northwest Pennsylvania, the relics will be brought to students at several of the diocese’s high schools.

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Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died of an aggressive form of leukemia in October 2006 at the age of 15, has captured the hearts of people across the globe, in part due to an online site he created documenting Eucharistic miracles from around the world. The official English site for the Association and Cause for the Canonization of Carlo Acutis can be found at <https://carloacutis-en.org/>. It includes a link to an English version of the website he created about Eucharistic miracles, available at <http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/>.

In 1902, the bishop of Seville, Spain, sent Saint Manuel González García to preach a mission in a small town; what the saint found was a discouragingly unkempt and abandoned church. The experience inspired him to kneel before the tabernacle and dedicate himself to Christ, abandoned in tabernacles all over the world. He also was well-known for his care for the poor and hungry. When he died in 1940, he asked to be buried next to a tabernacle, “so that my bones, after death, as my tongue and my pen in life, are saying to those who pass: there is Jesus! There it is! Do not leave him abandoned!” The National Catholic Register offers a good summary of a recent book based on his writings at <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/st-manuel-gonzalez-garcia-bishop-of-the-abandoned-tabernacle>.

“Relics are brought to the faithful to help them feel even closer to a person who has been declared by the church to have lived a holy life and/or to have brought people closer to Christ during their lifetime,” said Father Matthew Kujawinski, director of the Office for Divine Worship of the Diocese of Erie. Attached please find a document that explains more about veneration as well as how it is done.

People of all faiths are welcome to participate in this unique opportunity for reflection and grace. Visit www.eriercd.org/relics.html for more information.

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**There are several steps on the way to being canonized a saint. Blessed Carlo has been beatified but not yet canonized, and so is referred to as Blessed. In early 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Carlo: the healing of a young Brazilian boy from a rare congenital disease of the pancreas after he touched a photo of Carlo, asking for healing. On October 10, 2020, Carlo was beatified and proclaimed Blessed at Assisi, Italy, where he is buried.*