



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC District School Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MR01

From: Karen Tigani, Director of Education
Mary Helen Van Loon, Chairperson of the Board

HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DSB RENAMES SCHOOL FOLLOWING CANONIZATION OF SAINT CARLO ACUTIS

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is overjoyed to celebrate the canonization of Saint Carlo Acutis on September 7, 2025. Presiding over the Mass and canonization of Saint Carlo Acutis in Rome, Pope Leo XIV paid tribute to his extraordinary witness to faith, hope, and trust in God, and to the Lord's great plan for eternal joy and happiness.



Pope Leo XIV spoke about how Saint Carlo Acutis, a teenager of our own day and the first millennial saint, encountered Jesus and in his family, through school, and in his parish community. The Pope noted how “he grew up naturally integrating prayer, sport, study and charity into his days as a child and young man.” This is an incredible model for us and reinforces the triad relationship between home, school and parish.

In September 2020, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board opened a virtual school named “Blessed Carlo Acutis Continuing Education School” to offer K-12 learning for students who were unable to attend in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year. We are proud to announce its renaming to Saint Carlo Acutis Continuing Education School.

The school has expanded its offerings to include After-Hours Co-operative Education (Co-op) and various summer school programs. During the 2024-25 school year, 267 students benefitted from these courses.

Saint Carlo Acutis, who passed away at 15 in 2006, was a millennial who enjoyed soccer, video games, and sweets, and was known for his humour and kindness to peers. He deeply devoted his life to faith, using the Internet to share stories of miracles, bringing hope and love to others.

He lived generously striving to be his best self; he sought to do things for the common good - for others, for the environment, for love. "Being originals and not photocopies", captures Carlo Acutis' efforts as he spent his personal savings on the poor. He is remembered as a student who spoke up against bullying and befriended students who were marginalized.

We are honoured to adopt the name Saint Carlo Acutis. His life demonstrates how modern technology can spread the Gospel and foster good in the world. As we advance digital education, his legacy reminds us that online tools can facilitate learning, creativity, connection, and the spread of God's love, inspiring our students to become 21st-century saints. Our Board is committed to ongoing faith formation, and the lives of Saints like Carlo Acutis inspire us to illuminate faith, hope, and love in our Catholic schools.

Chair of the Board, Mary Helen Van Loon states, "Blessed...now Saint...Carlo Acutis was chosen as patron of our newly created online learning centre as a source of hope and inspiration for students and staff alike. During his short life he was able to merge his love for Jesus and for technology, into a witness of incredible faith and service. This modern day saint reminds, encourages, and inspires us in the knowledge that we are all called to holiness. May his life and his example continue to be a guiding light for our online learning center."

To keep up to date with our Board's events and initiatives, please consider following the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (@HPCDSB) on Facebook.

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