



SUMMER LAUNCH

Freshmen

School-wide Interdisciplinary Summer Reading Initiative Class of 2029

Schoolwide guidelines:

- Book Assignment
 - **Class of 2029** - *Blessed Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers* by Courtney Mares
 - Theology
 - Creative Project is due September 2, 2025
 - Submission link: <https://forms.gle/oCGjCKfAzLy3TvQD6>
 - If you have any submission questions, please contact Mrs. Chrissy Ashmen at mrs.ashmen@hermits.com
 - Extemporaneous Writing - prompt will be provided on **September 2, 2025** and completed during community time that day
- Schoolwide Standards
 - Students are encouraged to annotate the hardcopy of the book while reading and are permitted to use **ONLY** the hardcopy during the writing assessment on September 2, 2025
 - A reading guide is provided. Students should complete this reading guide as they progress through the book. The reading guide is ungraded and designed to assist the students as they prepare for the extemporaneous writing prompt - think of the reading guide as a study guide. Students will not be permitted to use or reference their completed reading guide when answering the writing prompt.
 - Grading
 - What will the weighting be?
 - Two quiz grades in theology - one for the creative project and one for your responses to the writing prompt
 - Students who do not complete either part of the summer work on time (firm deadlines) will receive a zero for that assignment.

Reading Guide: A Saint in Sneakers

No other notes are permitted for the written assessment-- only a paper copy of the book will be permitted in the written portion of the assignment. These questions are not required to be answered for any one specific assignment, but may help in guiding your reading of the book and assist in the development of your creative project and your notes for the writing assessment that you will have upon your return to school. **This reading guide may not directly be used as a resource for your writing assignment, but you may write notes in your book as a resource.**

1. Where was Carlo born?
2. Where did his family move to when he was still a baby?
3. At what age did he start to talk?
4. When he was just 4 years old, how did he show his devotion to Jesus and Mary in the local Church?
5. True or False: When Carlo was a small child, his parents were devout practicing Catholics.
6. What age was Carlo when he made his First Holy Communion?
7. From that day on, what 2 aspects of his faith did Carlo never miss?
8. At nine, what did Carlo develop an interest in?
9. What kind of books did his mother buy for him?
10. What other aspects of IT besides web design, did Carlo show an interest in? (Name one!)
11. Give two examples of how Carlo was a typical 21st-century teenage boy.
12. Apart from Mass, what other sacrament did Carlo attend regularly because he knew of his weaknesses?
13. Give one example of how Carlo reached out to help others in need.
14. At the age of 11, what sacrament did Carlo receive?
15. Finish the quote: Carlo described the Eucharist as his “highway to _____”?
16. Carlo’s great project involved creating a virtual museum and a downloadable exhibition on what topic?

17. What did Carlo say his life plan was? “To be close to _____”
18. Complete the quote: “All people are born as originals, but many die as _____.”
19. What illness was Carlo diagnosed with when it became clear he didn’t have the flu?
20. For whom did Carlo offer his sufferings?

Creative Project: Video Project

Carlos Acutis incorporated technology to spread his faith worldwide. In a world filled with technology more specifically Social Media Students will have the opportunity to share what they learned about this book through a creative video.

Directions: In a YouTube tutorial-style video you will share what parts of the book you liked best and how you could relate. The following information should be included...

1. In the first two minutes, introduce yourself and share that part of the book that you were able to relate to best:
 - Who are you?
 - Where are you from?
 - What is your favorite subject?
 - Why did you choose to attend the Prep? Perhaps you might elaborate here on your academic, athletic, and extracurricular expectations.
2. 2-3 more minutes: Use some “adjectives” to describe Carlo:
 - Support those “adjectives” with examples from your reading of the book. Please include page numbers here.
 - Create a slideshow of your favorite quotes from Carlo.
 - Add pictures relating to Carlo’s story or your faith journey.

The objective of this assignment is to use social media in a positive way, as Carlo did. Take what you have learned from his story and what you have connected with, and create a video that is unique to who you are while also trying to highlight Carlo’s story.

How will you be graded? Note that your grade for this project will count as a Quiz Grade in Theology I.

1. 50% of your grade will be based on the “information” you share by following the requirements listed above.

2. 10% will be based on the “formatting” of your video.
3. 10% will be based on “appropriateness”: You should be dressed appropriately in the video. Do not wear clothing with inappropriate sayings or logos on it.
4. 30% will be based on “overall impression”: This component would include creativity, effort, and detail.

Rubrics

Creative Video Project Rubric

70% of the project grade - Information

1. 20%: Introduce yourself
 - Who are you, and where are you from? Tell us about your background.
 - What is your favorite subject? Why did you choose the Prep? (etc., expectations for academics and extracurricular sports, and activities)
2. 30%: Introduce Carlo Acutis
 - Create a slide show explaining your three favorite quotes from Carlo.
 - Create a slide show with three adjectives to describe Carlo. Support your answer with examples from the book.
3. 20%: Making connections
 - Add pictures relating to your faith journey or Carlo’s story.
 - Incorporate one minute of a song you think relates best to Carlo’s story.

30 points of the project grade - Quality of the video

1. 10%: Formatting of your video
 - The video is well-lit and clear
 - Proper sound
2. 10%: Appropriateness.
 - Your attire is appropriate, with no clothing with inappropriate sayings or logos.
 - No music has inappropriate language, and we can see you in the video.
3. 10%: Overall impression
 - Did your video look professional? - Were you well prepared and rehearsed?
 - Was your video creative? - Is it unique to your personality?

Writing Rubric

Grading Criteria	Points Earned
First example (5 points each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The example is clear and concrete● The example is connected to the text	_____/10
Second example (5 points each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The example is clear and concrete● The example is connected to the text	_____/10
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation (5 points)	_____/5