

# LIVING FAITH

September 7, 2025

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

### Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.'

## TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Do you think that Jesus literally meant that, in order to follow Him, we have to hate our family members, and even hate life itself? No. He certainly did not mean for us to take his words so literally. The point that Jesus was probably trying to make is that if we do not love Jesus, then all of our other efforts are empty. Like the person building the tower, and like the king considering going to battle in the stories that Jesus tells today, we all have to give some serious thought to our priorities, and get things in order. If our possessions tie us down, rather than give us the freedom to follow Jesus, we need to re-evaluate things. If our relationships lead us away from Jesus and the fullness of life that Jesus promised, then we need to re-evaluate things and adjust our priorities.

## PONDER AND DISCUSS

- How have you heard Jesus' call to follow Him, to be His disciple?
- What does being a disciple affect the way you live your life?
- How do others know that you are a disciple of Jesus?

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# The Cost of Discipleship

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:25-33 (NIV).



K W M V S T W E S T I M A T E  
S P U S E O T T O W E R C S D  
Z J O K L E W P E C P L O P I  
Z R C L L I A Z N A X U S H U  
C U O P K T R X P R W C T K Y  
M F M C V H O J R R O B E A Q  
J O Y M C O U P G Y B L W N G  
C L N Q P U O P R S P U Z N M  
E V Y K E S A Z T I Q R I E B  
C N O K A A F L C N Y L G L H  
J R O I C N I S S E E R G S D  
N E O U E D I P N V A N I G E  
Z X S W G D V O A L S N N K X  
I A I U D H M R S F I I W O Y  
B V M C S S T C O F K D X O N

PEACE  
FINISH  
JESUS  
CARRY

ENOUGH  
CROWDS  
WAR  
COST

TRAVELING  
COMPLETE  
DISCIPLE  
FOLLOW

TOWER  
CROSS  
BUILD  
ESTIMATE

LARGE  
MONEY  
KING  
THOUSAND

This month, many students and teachers are headed back to school. Pray these prayers from [Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers](#) on your own or with your family as students and teachers begin a new school year.

### Prayers to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.  
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Prayer for Students

Lord our God,  
in your wisdom and love  
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.  
Send your spirit upon these students  
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.  
Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies  
and draw ever closer to you,  
the source of all knowledge.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth  
and teaches us in your ways.  
Look upon these teachers.  
Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience  
and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.  
Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.



## **World's First Millennial Saint Is Here: Carlo Acutis, 15, To Be Canonised September 7, 2025**

**Pope Leo will canonise British-born Italian boy, Carlo Acutis, in a ceremony at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. Carlo, who died of leukaemia in 2006 aged 15, was informally known as "God's influencer". He is the Patron saint of the Internet.**

### **Prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis**

**Oh God, Our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo, a life example for the young and a message of love for everyone. You made him become enamoured with Your Son Jesus, Making of the Eucharist his "Highway to Heaven". You gave him Mary, as a most loving Mother, and, with the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us. Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and helped. Grant for me too, by his intercession, the grace that I need ... And make our joy fulfilled, placing Carlo among the Saints of your Church, so that his smile may shine again for us in the glory of your name. Amen**

**("Our Father", "Hail Mary", "Glory be to God")**

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**Bishop of Assisi Nocera Umbra Gualdo**

**Tadino Foligno**



**Read more about Carlo Acutis here**

**[https://rcsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CA\\_Banner-4-1.pdf](https://rcsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CA_Banner-4-1.pdf)**

**Blessed Carlo Acutis,  
You who found joy and strength in the Eucharist, And who  
used your gifts to spread the love of Christ, we turn to you  
today, asking for your intercession. Pray for us, that we may  
have the courage  
to live our faith with the same simplicity  
and passion as you did.  
Help us to embrace the beauty of the sacraments and to use  
the talents God has given us  
for the good of others and the glory of His name. Guide us to  
see Christ in every moment,  
and may your example inspire us  
to lead lives rooted in love, service, and devotion. Blessed  
Carlo, patron of the internet and youth, pray for us,  
that we may always seek holiness in our daily lives and walk  
ever closer to Jesus. Amen**

**<https://www.carloacutis.com/en/association/biografia>**