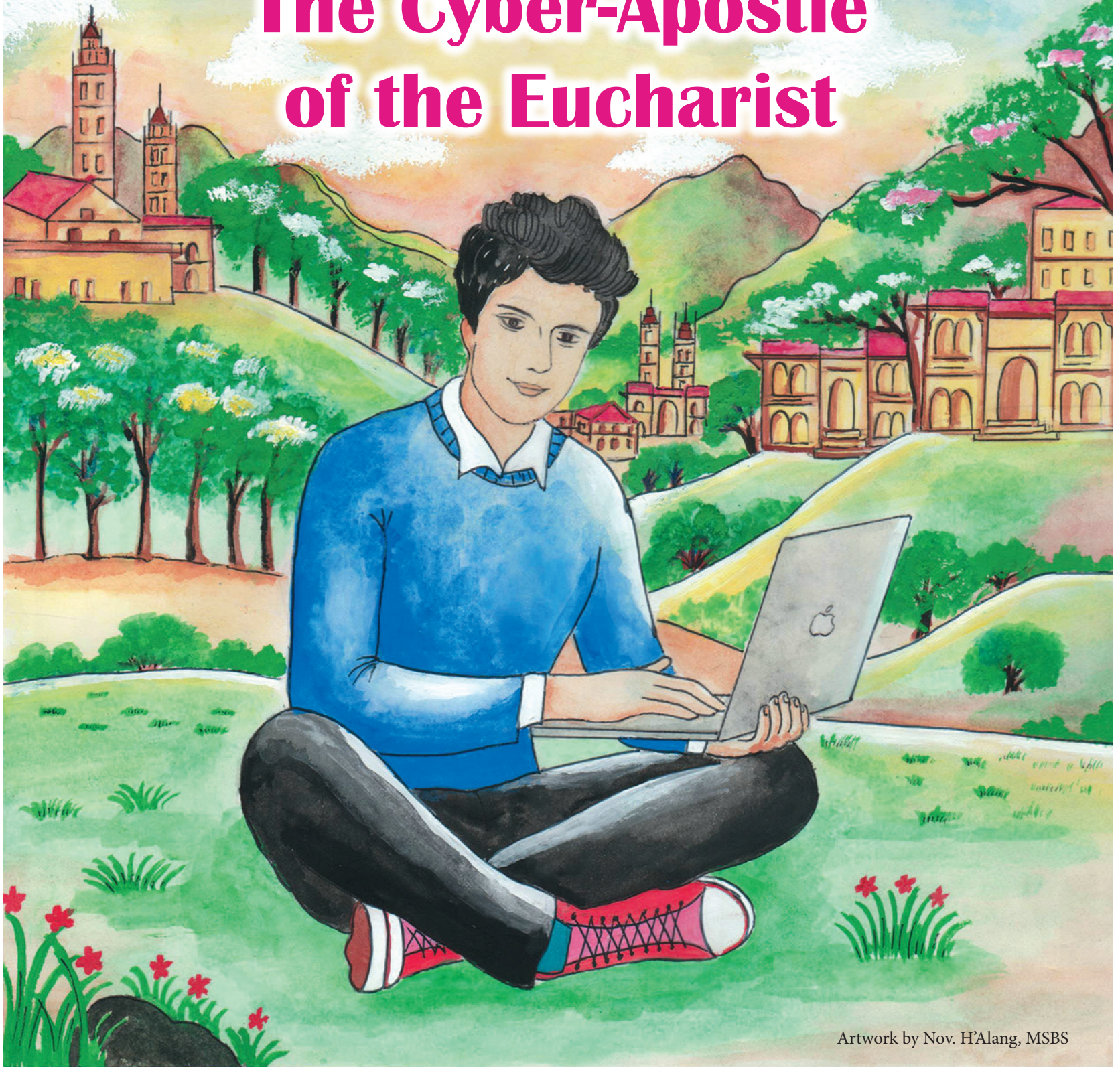
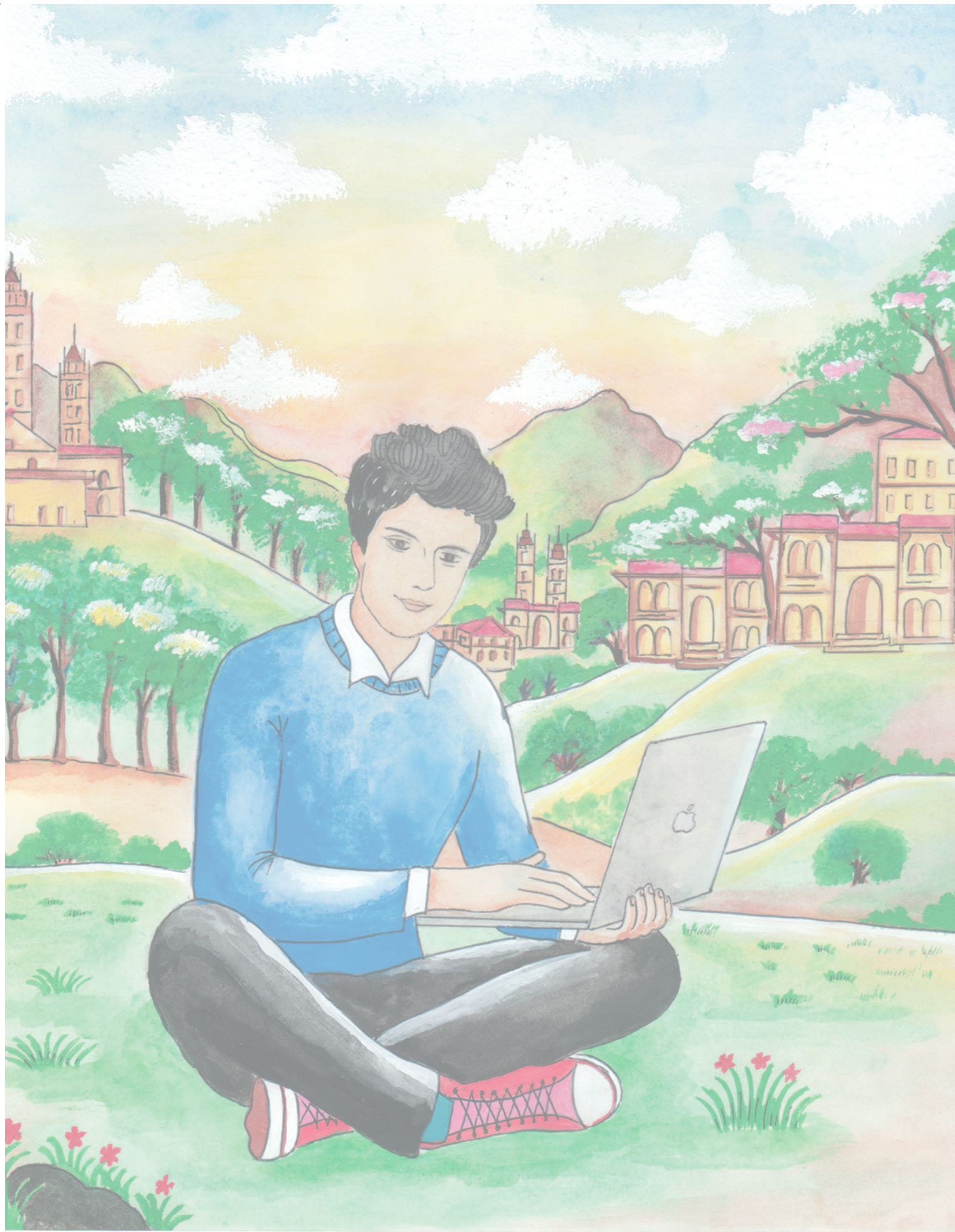


Carlo Acutis: The Cyber-Apostle of the Eucharist



Artwork by Nov. H'Alang, MSBS



It was a fine Saturday morning. Marco was playing video games while his mother was cooking and his father, working in the garden.

Marco!!!
Will you stop playing
video games and help
your father cut the
grass?



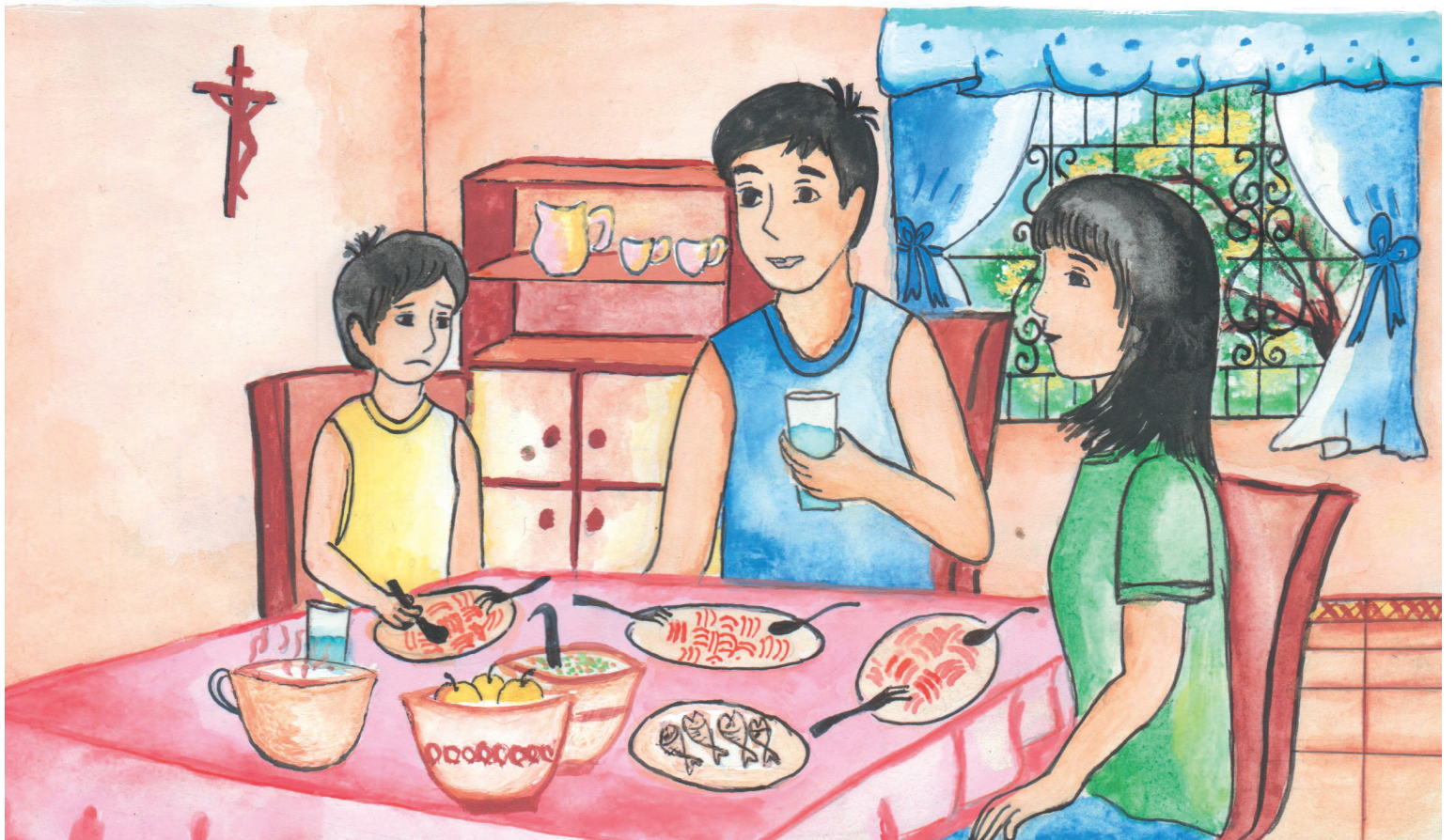
Not wanting to hear any more of his mother's yelling, he grudgingly stopped the game, shut down the computer and went to help his father.



When the sun rose high and burned hot on the skin, his mother finally called them for lunch.



Still stewing with anger for being deprived of his time for video games, Marco kept silent the whole mealtime.



Immediately after lunch, he decided to do his assignment in Christian Living. His teacher asked them to share in class a memorable story about the Eucharist.



Marco powered on the computer and began surfing the internet for interesting stories about the Eucharist.



He found the website containing exhibits of Eucharistic Miracles in the world.
The website was curated by Carlo Acutis.



Clicking on the first panel of Eucharistic Miracles, a boy in a red shirt appears and, on its right, a painting of him leaning close to Jesus' heart.



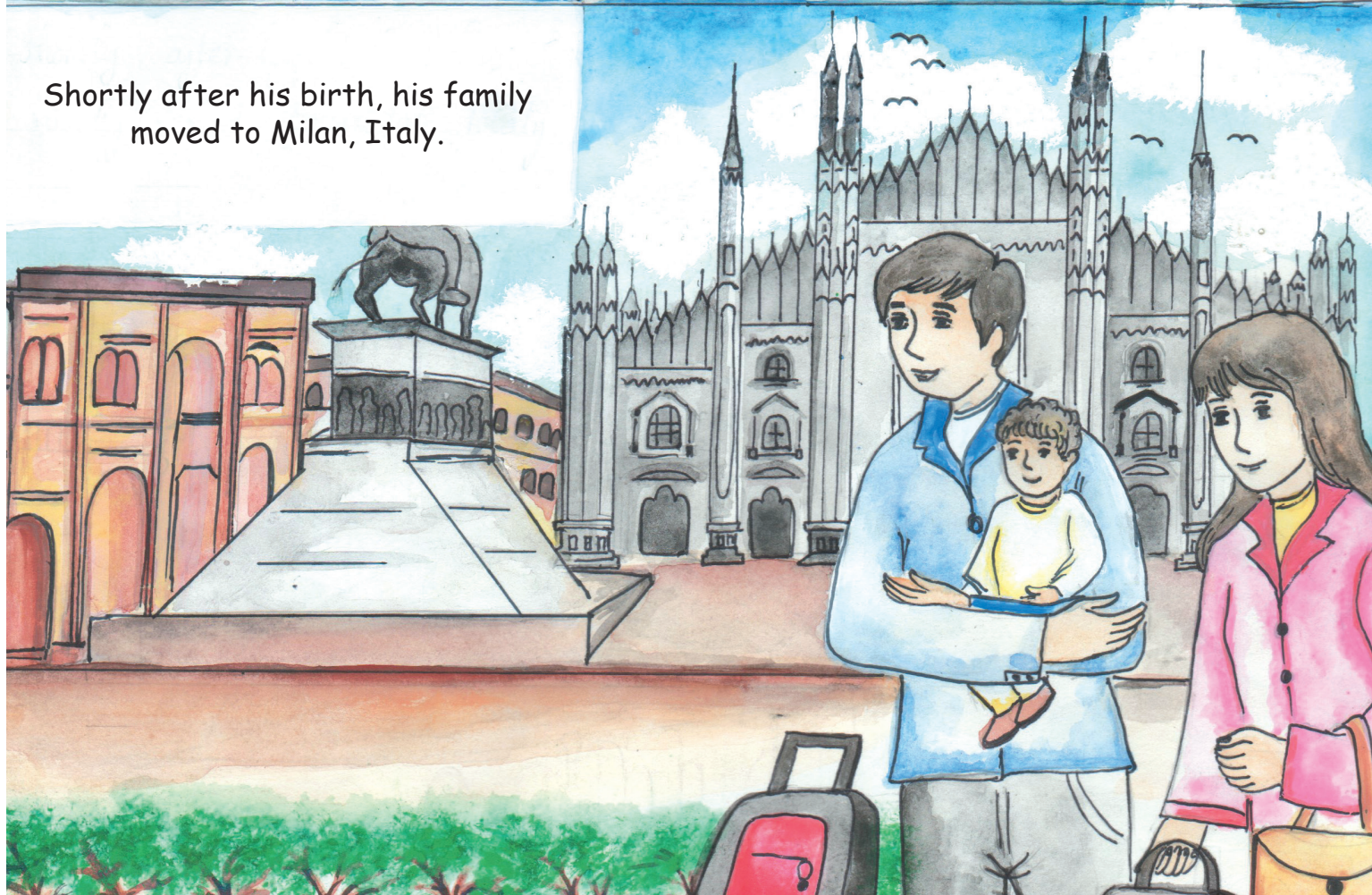
Marco found the photo fascinating and began reading the story of Carlo Acutis' life.



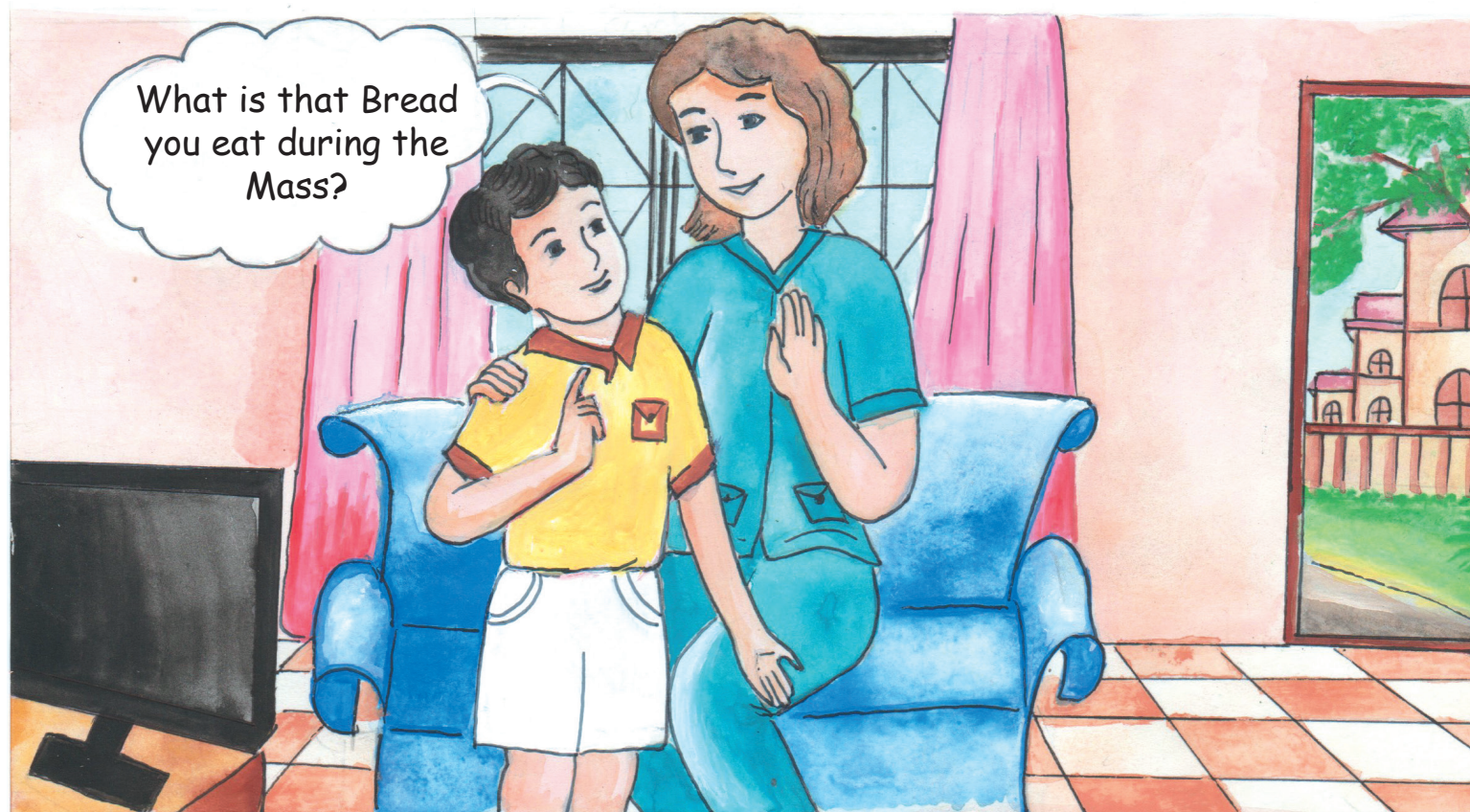
Carlo Acutis was born in London on May 3, 1991 to an Italian couple, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano.



Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Milan, Italy.



His parents were not particularly religious, but the Lord's grace worked on his soul, awakening in him interest in religious practice. At a young age, he had many questions about faith, and it was his Polish babysitter who provided him with answers.



At seven years old, he requested to receive the First Communion.



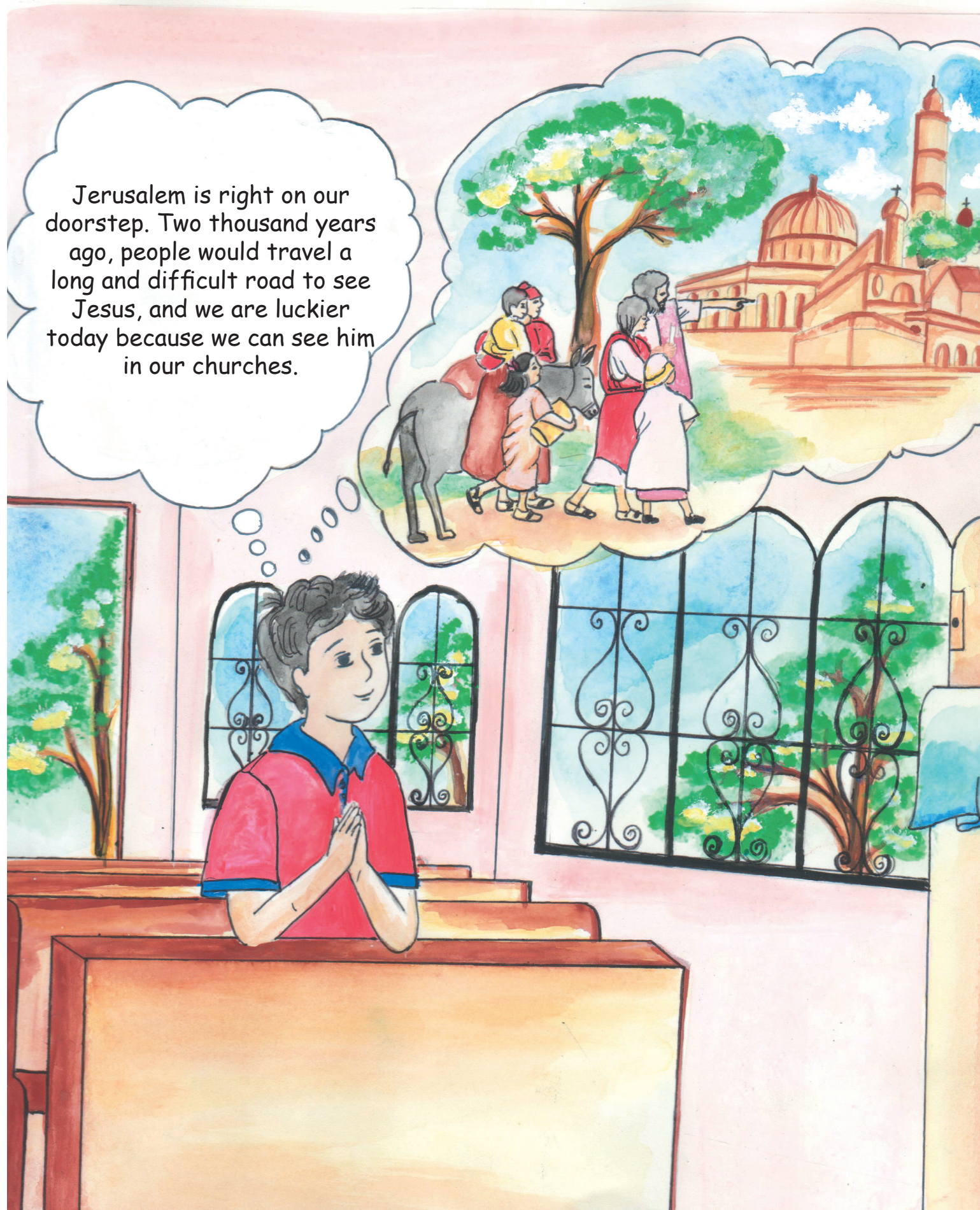
Since then, he never failed to attend the daily Mass or say the rosary.



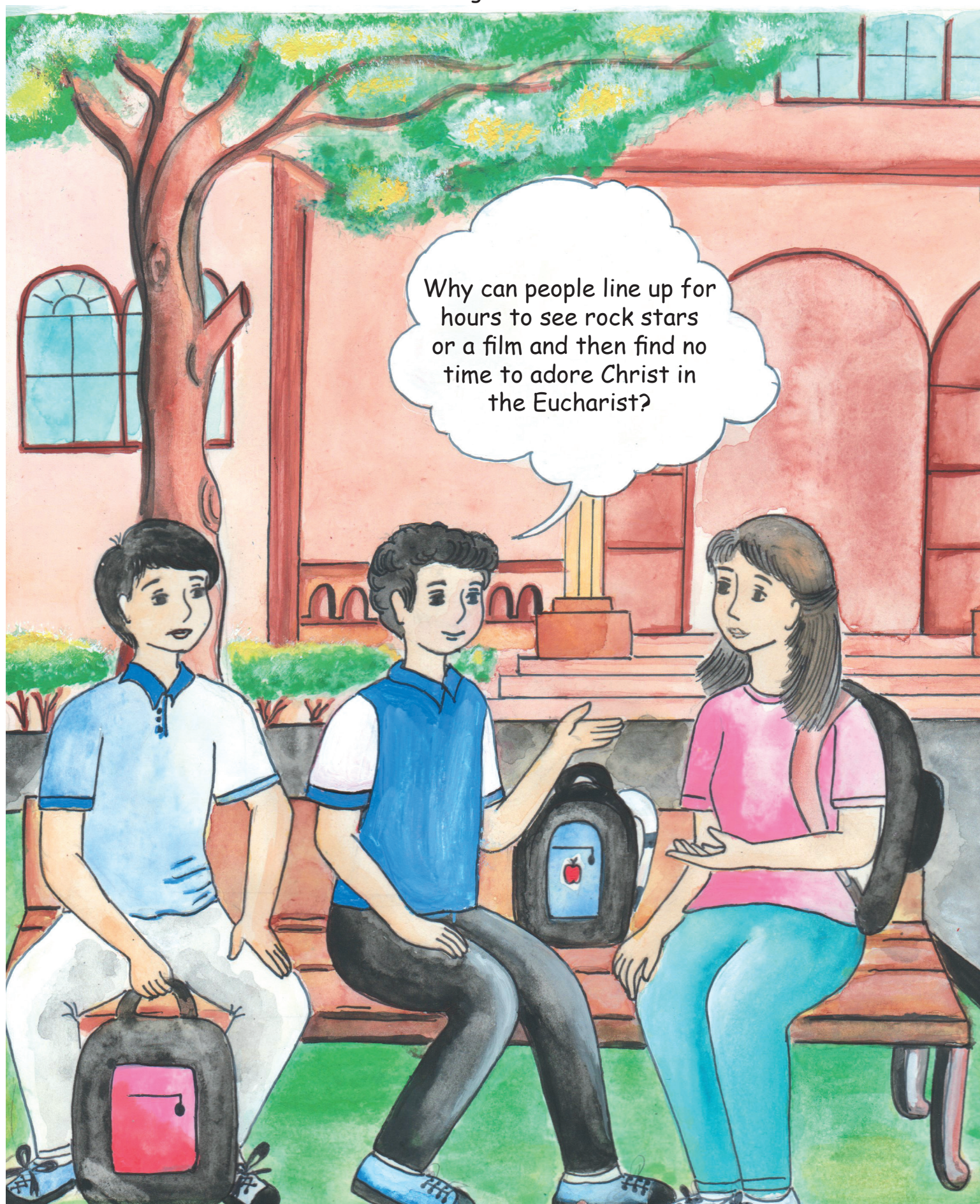
He also went for a weekly confession. After Mass, he is frequently seen kneeling before the Tabernacle, silently contemplating the Lord.



He was deeply convinced that Jesus is present in the Eucharist
like He was two thousand years ago in Israel.



So profoundly captivating and meaningful were the moments of Eucharistic adoration for him that Carlo could not help but ask why many people would line up for hours to go to a rock concert or a film but never do so to gaze at and adore the Eucharistic Jesus.



Carlo resolved to do his best to help others love the Eucharist and strengthen their faith. He decided in 2002 to stage an exhibition on the Miracles of the Eucharist recognized by the Church.



Skilled in computers and the internet, he began creating a website dedicated to Eucharistic miracles in the world. With the help of his family, he was able to complete the project after almost two and a half years.



Carlo's love for the Eucharist was also seen in the way he lived.
He cared about his friends whose parents were divorcing.
So, he invited them to their home to let them feel his support.



He defended his peers from bullies.



He was a normal teenager who knew how to have fun. He played soccer and especially liked travelling, watching films, comic editing and playing PlayStation video games.



However, he limit himself to an hour of playing... a little sacrifice he liked to offer.



He used to go around the neighborhood, stopping by anyone he meets to smile and say hello or chat with the doormen of the luxury buildings.





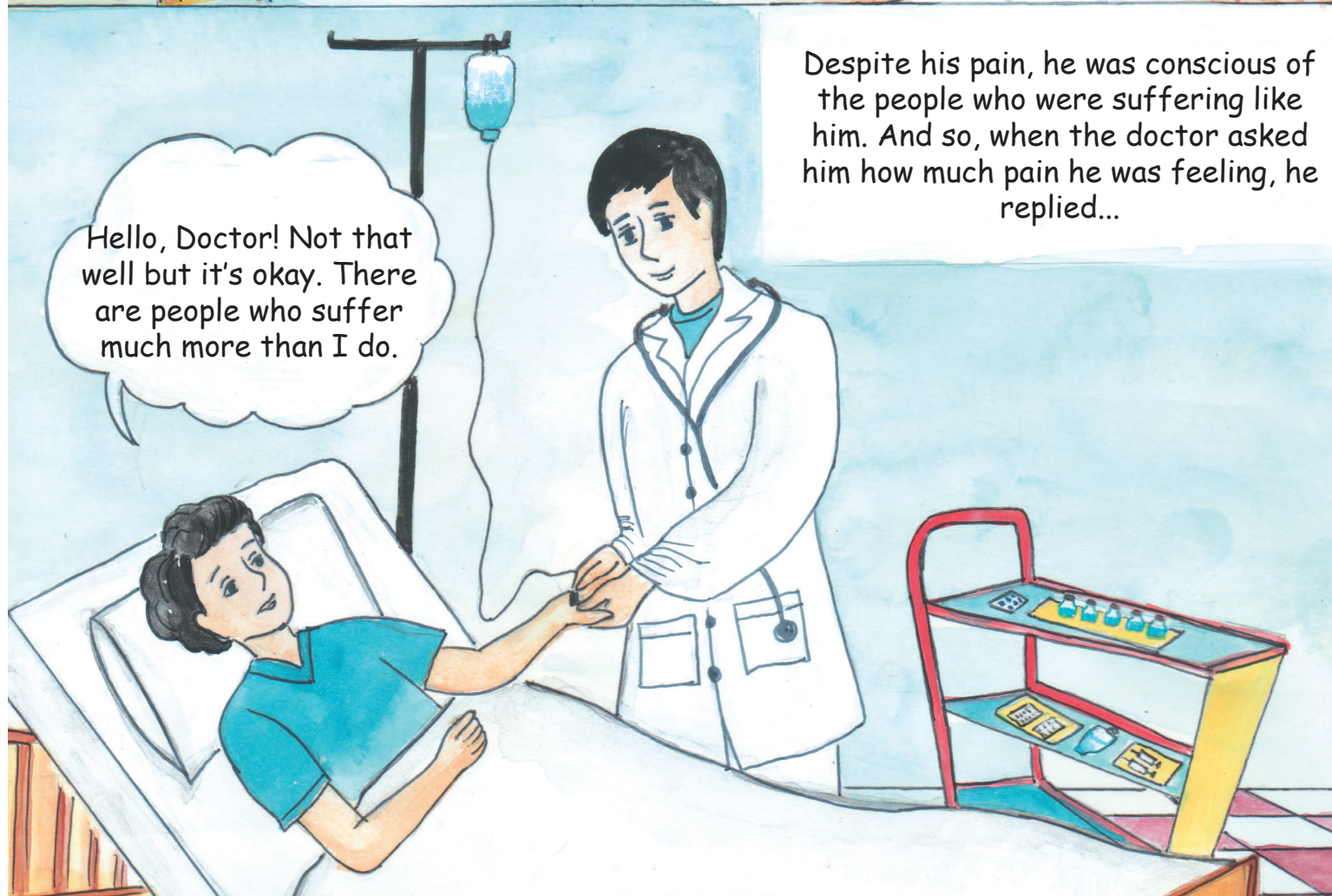
Once, he used his money to buy sleeping bags for the homeless living on the streets.



At the age of 15, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia, a cancer of the blood. But sickness and pain did not rob him of his joy and love for Jesus. On the contrary, it gave him a new way of offering his life for Him.



He offered all his suffering both for the Pope and for the Church.

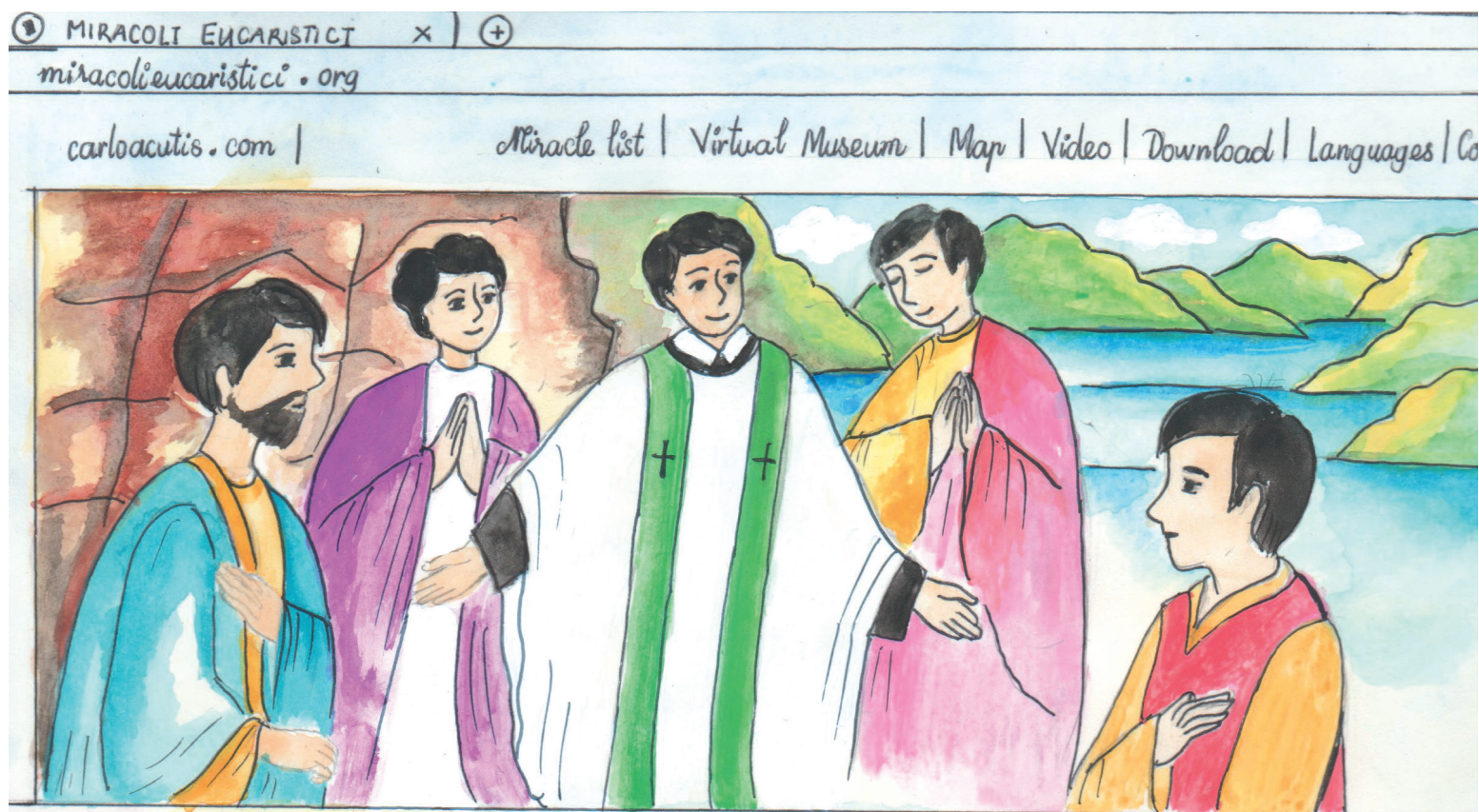


Despite his pain, he was conscious of the people who were suffering like him. And so, when the doctor asked him how much pain he was feeling, he replied...

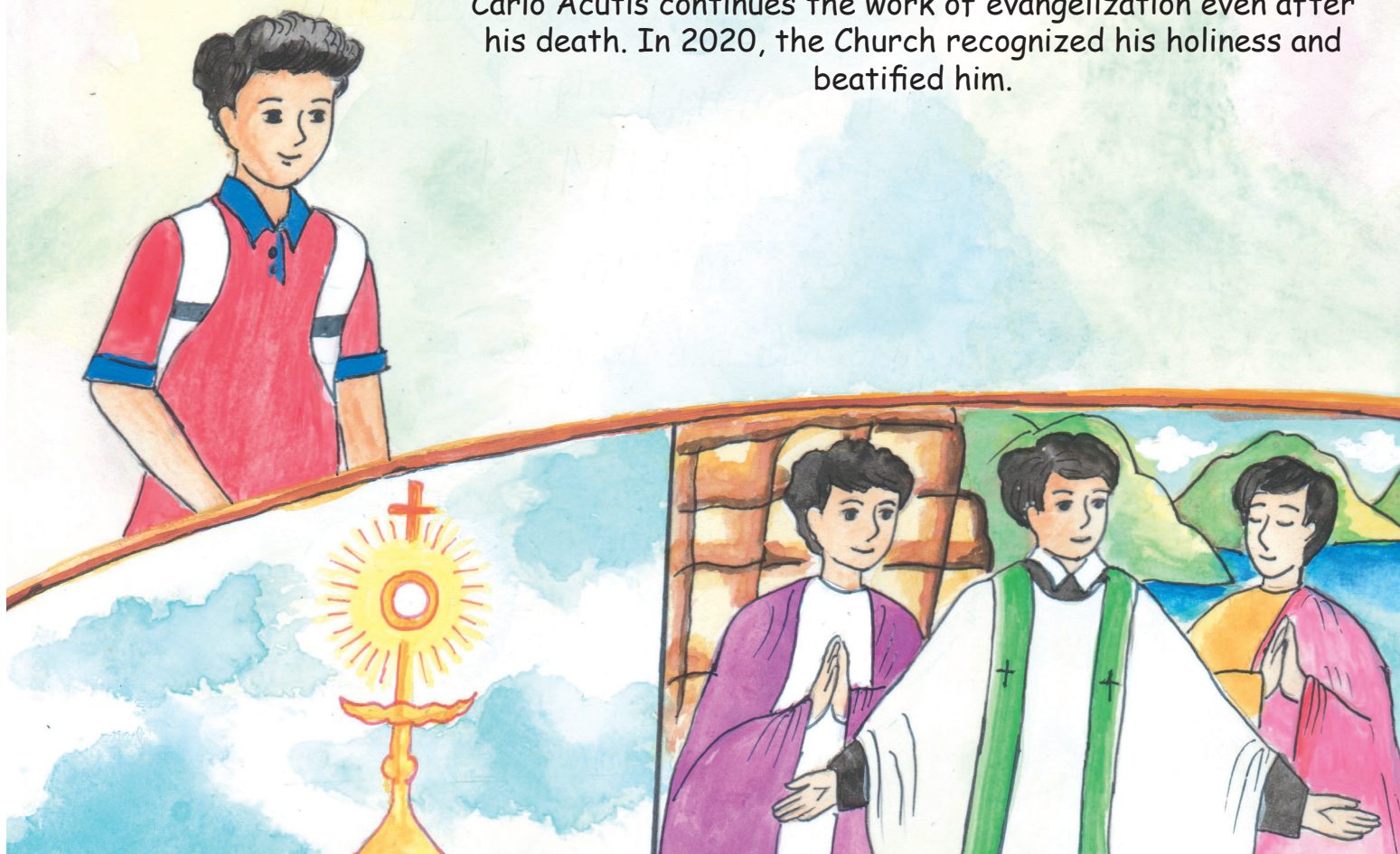
In October 2006, Carlo Acutis died, but his memory lives on the many persons he has touched.
On the day of his funeral, the church was packed with people,
who were touched by his goodness.



His work, the online exhibit of Eucharistic miracles, continues to help people deepen their faith in the Eucharist. Because of this, Carlo Acutis is called the CYBER-APOSTLE of the Eucharist



Carlo Acutis continues the work of evangelization even after his death. In 2020, the Church recognized his holiness and beatified him.



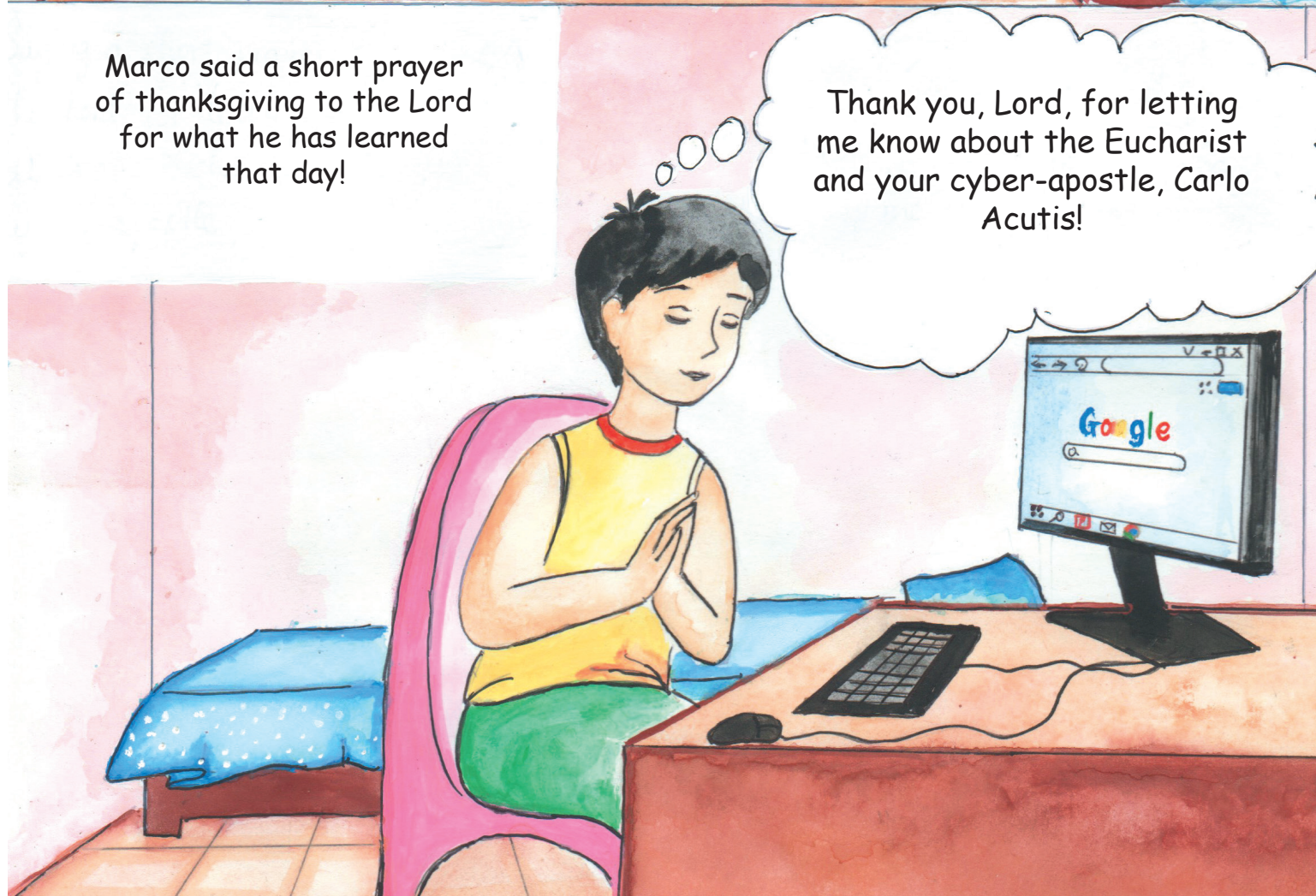
Glancing once more at the serene face of Carlo Acutis,
Marco felt something within him has changed.



He, too, wants to see Jesus in the Eucharist. He wants to talk to Him and ask Him to help him be a good person like Blessed Carlo Acutis.



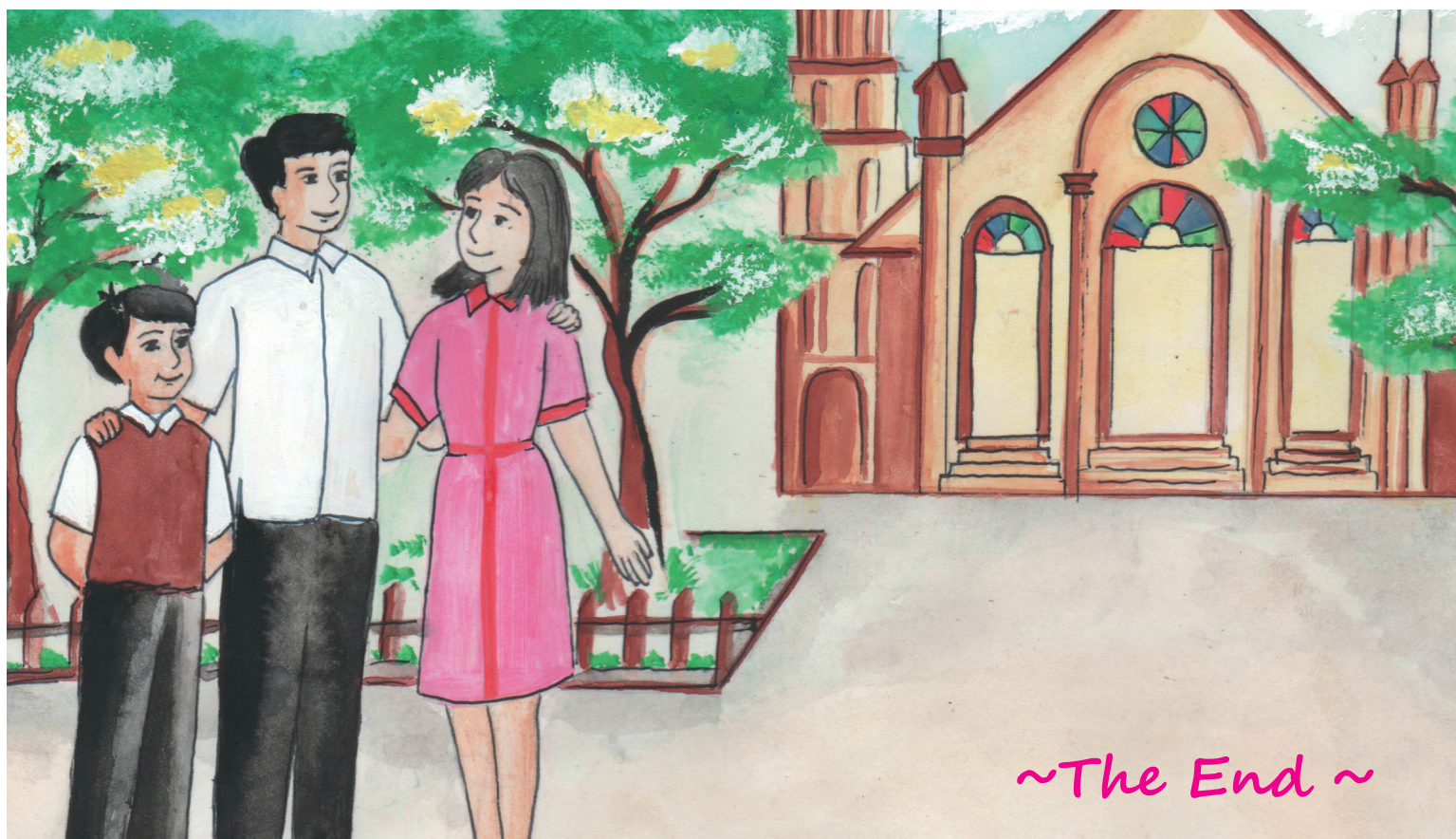
Marco said a short prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for what he has learned that day!

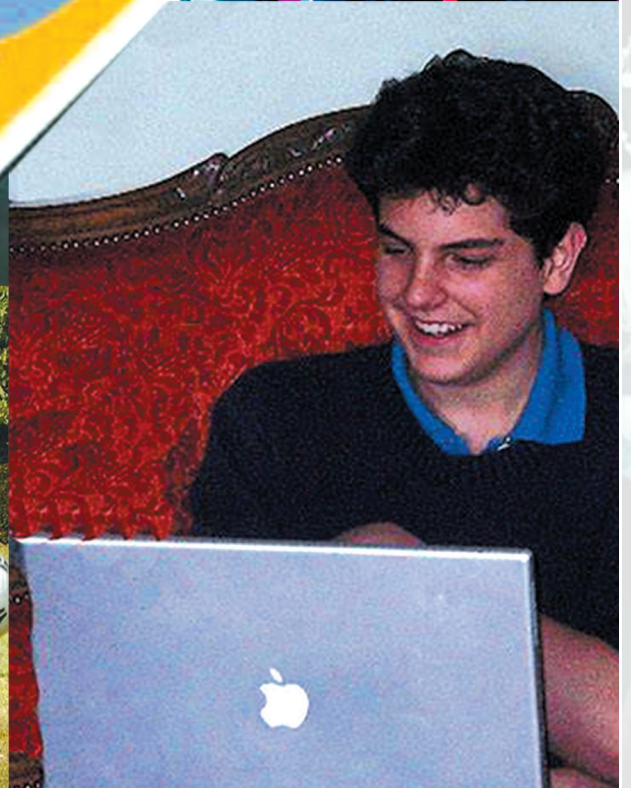
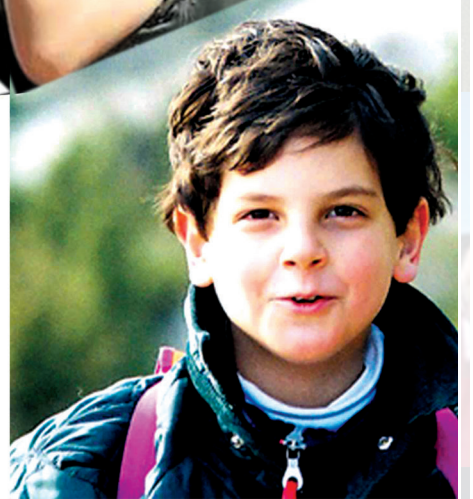


Marco shut down the computer and with a cheerful heart, sought his mother and volunteered to help in preparing the family dinner.



The next day was a Sunday, and Marco cheerfully went with his parents to join the celebration of the Holy Mass in his Parish church.







Prayer to Blessed Carlo Acutis

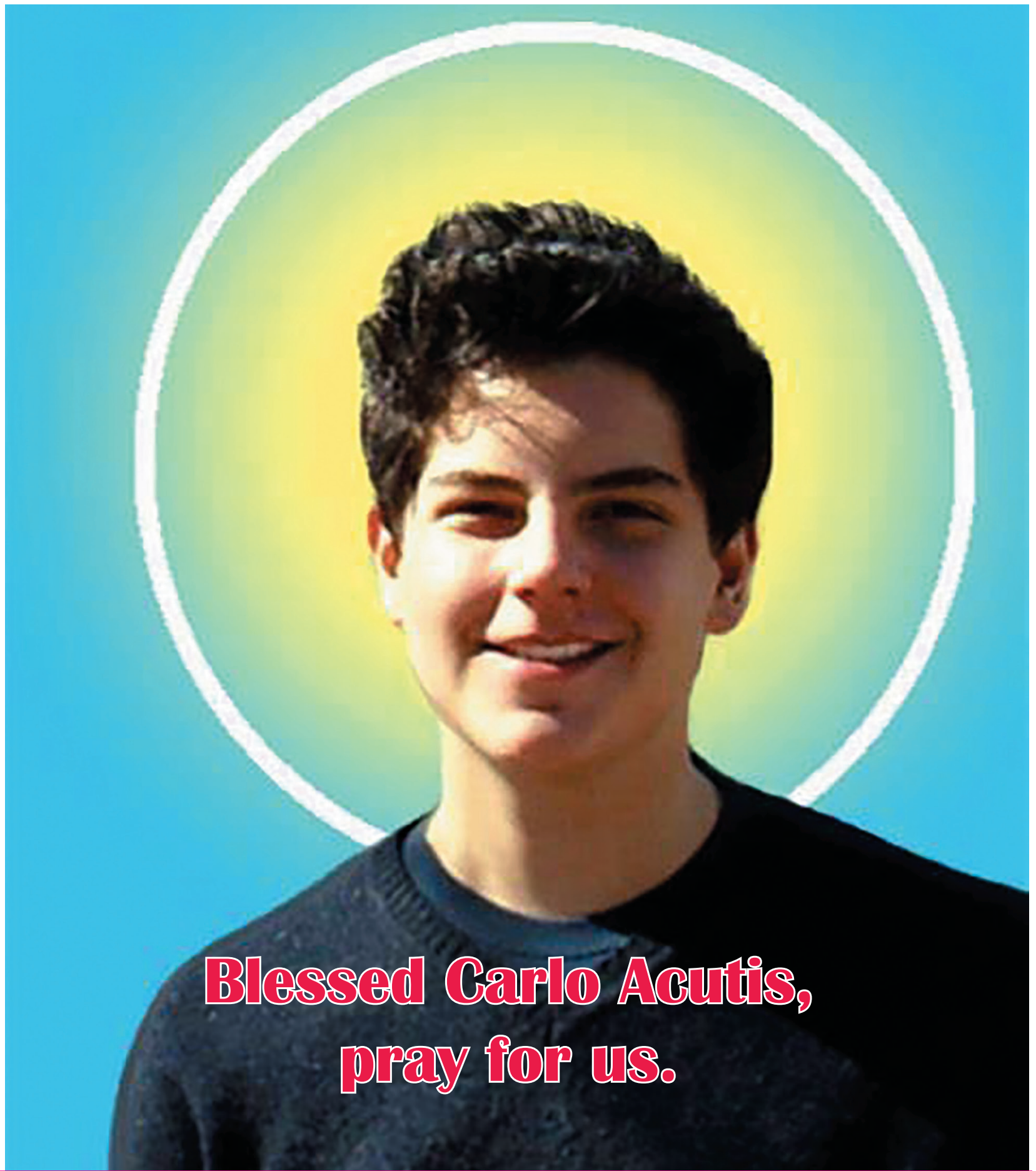
O God our Father,
we thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model of life for young people,
and a message of love for all.

You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,
making the Eucharist his “highway to heaven.”

You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,
and you made him, through the Rosary,
a cantor of her tenderness.

Receive his prayer for us.
Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted.
Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace
that I need (mention your intention).

And make our joy full, raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile shines again for us
to the glory of your name. Amen.



**Blessed Carlo Acutis,
pray for us.**

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