

Below is a translation from the Latin of the Pontifical Brief:

Apostolic Brief

The honors proper to the Blessed are granted to the Venerable Servant of God Alvaro del Portillo y Diez de Sollano, titular bishop of Vita, prelate of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei.

POPE FRANCIS

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam

“Regnare Christum volumus!” “We want Christ to reign!” The deepest yearning of Venerable Alvaro del Portillo is expressed in this aspiration that he heard from the lips of Saint Josemaría Escrivá and chose as the motto for his episcopal coat of arms. He sought to place Christ at the summit of all human activities, through the sanctification of work and ordinary activities.

The Church is the seed and beginning of the Kingdom of Christ on earth (see Vatican II, Dogmatic const. on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, no. 5), which will attain its fullness only when the day of the Lord arrives. Therefore in repeating *“regnare Christum volumus!”* the venerable servant of God Alvaro del Portillo manifested his desire to contribute with all his strength to the building up of the Church on the solid rock of the Roman Pontiff, the successor of Peter, “supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful” (*ibid.*, no. 25). Thus throughout his life he strove to incarnate the teaching he had received from the founder of Opus Dei: *“Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam!”*

Alvaro del Portillo was born in Madrid (Spain) on March 11, 1914, the third of eight children of Ramón and Clementina, fervent Christians and an exemplary couple. He obtained the academic degrees of Assistant of Public Works, doctor in Civil Engineering, in History, and in Canon Law. On July 7, 1935 he joined Opus Dei, eager to live his Christian vocation fully, by sanctifying his professional work and ordinary duties, and bringing his work companions and many other souls to God.

Soon he became Saint Josemaría’s strongest support, and remained at his side for almost forty years, assisting in the government and apostolic development of Opus Dei. On June 25, 1944, he was ordained a priest. In 1946 he

took up residence in Rome. His service to the Church was also shown in his generous dedication to the tasks entrusted to him by the Holy See, as a consultor for various organisms of the Roman Curia, and especially in his active participation in the work of the Second Vatican Council. On September 15, 1975, he was named the first successor of Saint Josemaría. On November 28, 1982, Saint John Paul II erected Opus Dei as a personal prelature, made up of lay faithful and secular priests, and named the venerable servant of God Alvaro del Portillo as first prelate of that ecclesiastical circumscription. On December 7, 1990 he was named titular bishop of Vita, and on January 6, 1991 he received episcopal ordination at the hands of the same Holy Pontiff in Saint Peter's Basilica.

Our Lord called this good and faithful servant of his into his presence on the morning of March 23, 1994, a few hours after returning from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he had visited the places that our Lord Jesus had walked with his footsteps on earth. That same day, Saint John Paul II went to pray before his mortal remains, in the prelatial church of Our Lady of Peace.

Venerable Alvaro del Portillo's reputation for sanctity, already wide-spread in his lifetime, reached universal extension after his death. In the year 2004, our venerable brothers Camillo Ruini, Cardinal Vicar of Rome, and Javier Echevarría, titular bishop of Cilibia, and prelate of Opus Dei, began, before the Tribunal of the Vicariate of Rome and the Tribunal of the prelature of Opus Dei, two exploratory processes—both equally principal—on the life, virtues, and reputation for holiness of the servant of God. The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints having declared the validity of those processes, on February 10, 2012, the Congress of Theological Consultors responded affirmatively to the question of the exercise of heroic virtues and the reputation for sanctity of the servant of God. The cardinals and bishops, gathered in the Ordinary Session of June 5, 2012, gave the same pronouncement. On June 2 of that same year our predecessor, Benedict XVI, ordered the publication of the corresponding decree.

During the years 2008 and 2009, the Curia of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Chile investigated the process of the presumably miraculous cure of a boy in the year 2003, which was attributed to the intercession of the servant of God. Having fulfilled the requirements required by law, on October 18, 2012 the Medical Consultors of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints determined that the cure was inexplicable for current medical science; the Special Congress of Theological Consultors—on December 15, 2012—declared that this cure was a work of God and was due to the intercession of his servant; and

the Ordinary Session of cardinals and bishop—on June 4, 2013—gave the same affirmative opinion. For these reasons, on July 5, 2013 we ordered that the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints promulgate the decree on the miracle and we established that the rite of beatification would take place in Madrid, on September 27, 2014.

Today, in the cited city, our venerable brother Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, reads by our mandate the text of the Apostolic Letter, with which we inscribed among the blessed the venerable servant of God Alvaro del Portillo y Diez de Sollano:

We, welcoming the desire of our brothers Agostino Vallini, Cardinal Vicar for Rome, and Javier Echevarría Rodríguez, titular bishop of Cilibia, prelate of Opus Dei, as well as of many other brothers in the episcopate, and of numerous faithful, after having listened to the opinion of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, with our apostolic authority grant the faculty that the venerable servant of God Alvaro del Portillo y Diez de Sollano, bishop, prelate of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei, a pastor to the measure of Christ's Heart and diligent servant of the Church, henceforth is to be called blessed, and his feast celebrated each year, on the 12th of May, in the places and in the way established by law. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

What we have decreed with the present letter we wish to remain firmly established now and in the future, notwithstanding anything to the contrary. With great appreciation for the Blessed's loving, humble and constant ministry, above all with members of Opus Dei, for these and all the faithful we set forth his example.

Given in Rome, close to Saint Peter, and sealed with the ring of the Fisherman, September 27, 2014, the second year of Our Pontificate.

By order of the Supreme Pontiff

Pietro Card. Parolin
Secretary of State

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