

BLESSED ALVARO DEL PORTILLO

Newsletter No. 14 | 2026

Unity in the Church



In **Pope Leo XIV's** homily marking the beginning of his pontificate on 18 May 2025, he encouraged us: "Brothers and sisters, I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world."

On 7 January 2026, he began a series of reflections on the documents of the Second Vatican Council. On 11 March, he commented on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*, dedicated to the Church, saying:

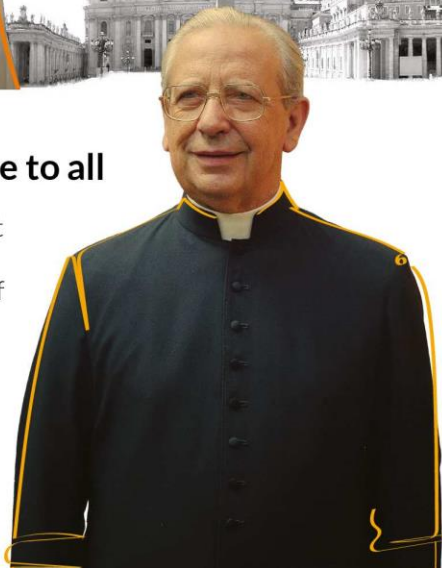
"Its unifying principle is not a language, a culture, an ethnicity, but faith in Christ: the Church is therefore – according to a splendid expression of the Council – the assembly of 'all those who in faith look upon Jesus'. (...) Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone."



In the Church and in service to all

"We must always be concerned about the universal Church: with our eyes fixed uninterruptedly on the centre of the Church – union with the Pope – and at the same time, 'looking outwards', being concerned about the salvation of all souls."

(Pastoral Letter, 1 August 1991,
in *Like Salt and like Light*,
Scepter 2014, 48)



We join in the hope of Pope Leo XIV, inspired by the words of Blessed Alvaro del Portillo.

Christ builds the Church

"To be united to the Pope is the only way to being faithful to the words of our Lord who assured us: *super hanc petram ædificabo Ecclesiam meam*. Christ is the one who builds the Church – and we, with him – through the Holy Spirit, but on the base that he himself has placed. There is no way other than to act always *cum Petro et sub Petro*, in union with the Pope and subject to his authority."

(Homily, 2 May 1988, in
Like Salt and like Light, 44)

The spiritual wealth of the Church

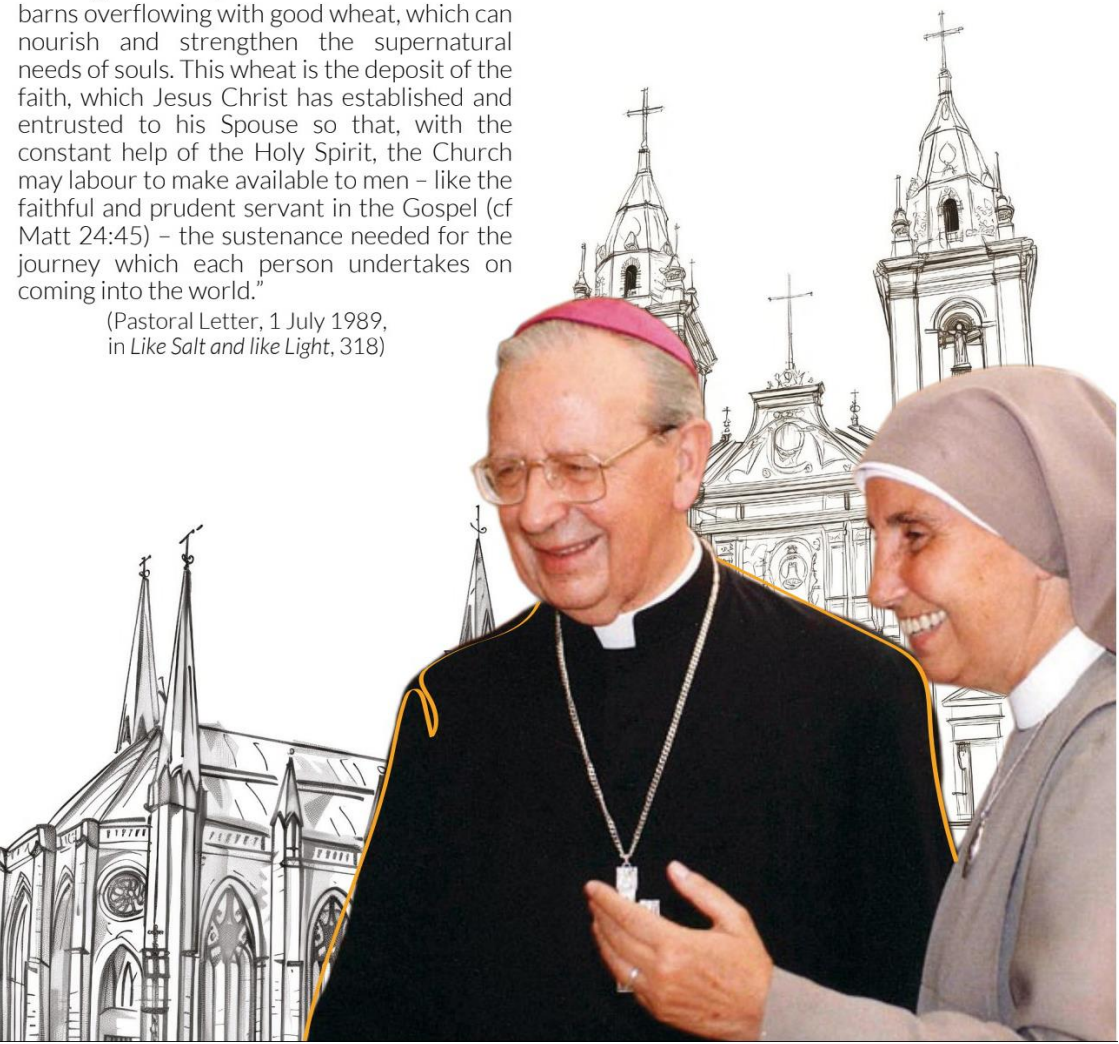
God's grace has provided the Church with barns overflowing with good wheat, which can nourish and strengthen the supernatural needs of souls. This wheat is the deposit of the faith, which Jesus Christ has established and entrusted to his Spouse so that, with the constant help of the Holy Spirit, the Church may labour to make available to men – like the faithful and prudent servant in the Gospel (cf Matt 24:45) – the sustenance needed for the journey which each person undertakes on coming into the world."

(Pastoral Letter, 1 July 1989,
in *Like Salt and like Light*, 318)

Love for the Pope, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and everyone

The Church is not a fanciful notion. It is a society presided over by the Pope and by the bishops in communion with him, and made up of the clergy and the lay faithful. If we love the Church we have to love the Pope, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the faithful. If we do not, it is not true that we love God. As we examine our conscience we see those seeds of love within us.

(Homily, 26 June 1982, in
Like Salt and like Light, 45)



The Catechism as an instrument of unity

Blessed Alvaro congratulates one of the authors of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "I thank the Lord, through His Blessed Mother, because it will be a good instrument of unity in the Church and a great help to spread Christian doctrine in Spain and around the world."

Javier Medina, *Álvaro del Portillo. Un hombre fiel*, Rialp, 2012, pg 664.



The Popes highlight his love for the Church



On the occasion of Don Alvaro's beatification, Pope Francis sent a letter to Monsignor Echevarría, then Prelate of Opus Dei, which reads as follows:

"Especially outstanding was his love for the Church, the Spouse of Christ, whom he served with a heart devoid of worldly self-interest, far from discord, welcoming towards everyone and always seeking in others what was positive, what united, what was constructive. He never spoke a word of complaint or criticism, even at especially difficult times, but instead, as he had learned from Saint Josemaría, he always responded with prayer, forgiveness, understanding and sincere charity."

In 1994, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote to Alvaro del Portillo: "To my venerable and dear brother, Alvaro del Portillo, who with a grateful heart to the Lord celebrates his eightieth birthday: expressing my deep appreciation for your faithful work in the service of the Church."

Javier Medina, *Álvaro del Portillo. Un hombre fiel*, Rialp, 2012, pg 670.

Prayer

O God, merciful Father, you granted your bishop Blessed Alvaro the grace of being, with our Lady's help, an exemplary pastor in the service of the Church and a most faithful son and successor of Saint Josemaría, the Founder of Opus Dei. Grant that I also may respond faithfully to the demands of the Christian vocation, turning all the circumstances and events of my life into opportunities to love you and to serve the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Deign to grant the canonisation of Blessed Alvaro, and through his intercession grant me the favour I ask request (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary,
Glory be to the Father.



Favours



I was healed without surgery

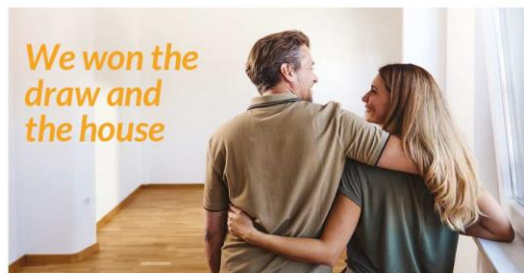
Don Alvaro helped me avoid a risky stomach operation. I was due to have the surgery after a retreat. The operation itself was high-risk, and the surgeon wouldn't know what he would find once he'd opened my abdomen. My stomach was twisted. I couldn't eat or drink anything. A healthcare professional had suggested a feeding tube as I was losing a lot of weight and was weak due to not eating. I decided to go on a retreat before the operation. There I came across a photo of Don Alvaro smiling very happily. I looked at it for a few minutes and said, "I need you to help me avoid having that operation." The doctor forgot to book the operating theatre at the hospital, and I began to feel hungry. I tried eating and found I could tolerate food without pain. I started eating that week, so we postponed the surgery until the following week. I continued to eat and drink fluids. I was even able to eat meat on Saturday (a week after asking Don Alvaro for his help). The surgery was postponed again. Later, I went for a medical consultation. The doctor saw that I had reached a healthy weight and we decided to wait a few months to see what decision would be made. Time passed and I continued to gain weight, and the surgery did not take place.

K.M.N.S. – Ecuador (2026)

Good jobs

Blessed Alvaro has once again secured a good job for my son-in-law... Thanks to his intercession, he has always provided my children, as well as our sons- and daughters-in-law, with excellent jobs... Thank you so much!

C.A.M. – Spain (2026)



We won the draw and the house

On 7 July, my husband and I decided to enter a mortgage draw held in Santa Fe (Argentina). We thought it was one of those situations where it would be a long time before we stood to win anything. We were in a terrible financial situation and were really struggling. We knew that a loan would help us stop paying a high rent for a home that wasn't ours. Owning our own home (with a low-interest loan) was much better. So we gave it a go. I decided to pray to Don Alvaro. There is a draw every month. We were successful in the second month. We were speechless.

Then things got complicated because we couldn't find a house to buy with the little savings we had. They were all in unsafe areas. I kept praying to Don Alvaro. I asked him for a house in a specific neighbourhood. A house in that neighbourhood turned up.

M.R.B. – Argentina (2026)

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of Blessed Alvaro del Portillo are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address below.

More information is available at www.alvarodelportillo.org

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