

BLESSED ALVARO DEL PORTILLO

Newsletter No. 12 - 2024

10th anniversary

It is ten years since the beatification of Alvaro del Portillo (1914-1994), bishop and prelate of Opus Dei. Cardinal Angelo Amato, representing Pope Francis, presided over the ceremony in Madrid on 27 September 2014.

We offer one of the texts proposed by the Church for the Liturgy of the Hours for the feast of Blessed Alvaro which falls on 12 May. It makes a reference to his episcopal motto: *Regnare Christum volumus!*, an aspiration that St Josemaría would often repeat to himself. We want Christ to reign! The Liturgy of the Hours is part of the public prayer of the Church. It includes two readings, the first taken from Sacred Scripture and the second related to the life or teaching of the saint or blessed of that day (for the blessed, it is recited only in the places of worship designated by the Church).



We want Christ to reign!

Regnare Christum volumus! For this to happen, we must ensure that Christ reigns, first of all, in our souls: in the soul of each one of us. That is the direction our path to holiness must take, one to which we have been called since before creation (...). A holiness, a quest for holiness, which doesn't separate us from the world – let me emphasise this – because it is precisely there, in our work and in our relaxation, in family life and social relations, that we discover the means and opportunity for an intimate encounter with Our Lord, identifying with Him so that we are gradually transformed into another Christ, *ipse Christo*, Christ Himself.



We shouldn't forget that, with the help of divine grace, which we get especially through prayer and in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance, these same circumstances of everyday life are also where and how we contribute to the sanctification of others and the Christianisation of human society. We want society to recognise, love and praise Christ, so that it may be truly worthy of man, created in God's image and redeemed by the Blood of the Word Incarnate (...).



The mission God calls us to is very exalted, the goal very high: to identify with Christ and make Him reign in the world, for the benefit and happiness of our fellow men and women of today and of the future. If we were to rely only on our own feeble strength, we would be right to see it as an unachievable utopia: we are not supermen, nor are we spared the limitations of nature. But, if we are willing, God's strength acts through our weakness.

Let us exercise our freedom by responding to the grace God offers us constantly and superabundantly. For that to happen, as we well know, we need to make the effort to begin anew each day the struggles of the spiritual life and Christian apostolate, which St Josemaría described as “the beautiful war of love”, and in which Christ's victory is the authentic triumph of man in all ages.

Blessed Alvaro del Portillo, Homily, 7 September 1991, in *Rendere amabile la verità*, LEV 1995, pp. 222-225.



Favours

Recovered without after-effects

On 9 December 2022, our 9-year-old son fell from the top of a wall to the ground, suffering a very serious head injury with internal bleeding. He underwent emergency surgery because, according to the doctors, 'they were going to try to save his life', not knowing what physical or psychological consequences he might have afterwards. We, his parents, prayed through the intercession of Blessed Alvaro, reciting his prayer-card each of the days we stayed in the hospital and making novenas. On the morning of the 24th the boy woke up and began to recover. On 4 January we returned home giving thanks to God and to Our Lady of Torreciudad. After a year, our son has recovered all his faculties. Thank you very much for everything.

N. and F. – Spain

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

Is prayer that powerful?

I have a friend who lives in Ecuador. We have only met by video calls, as I live in Brussels. He contacted me about three months ago and told me that he was very worried about his wife and their marriage, as they were unable to have children. He also told me that his wife was having a crisis of faith because of this situation. I told him that we were going to ask Blessed Alvaro to intercede for them, since he had already helped me several times in similar cases. So, I sent him the electronic version of the prayer-card and told him that I was also going to pray for them. I recited the prayer on the prayer-card for a few days and prayed for them at Mass, also through Blessed Alvaro's intercession. Exactly six weeks later, my friend sent me a message saying: "Is prayer that powerful? How can it be possible?" and attached the result of a clinical analysis in which it was confirmed that his wife was expecting a child. He is fully convinced that it was a favour from Blessed Alvaro.

J. M. Q. – Belgium



PRAYER

God, merciful Father, you granted your bishop Blessed Alvaro, with our Lady's help, the grace to be an exemplary pastor in the service of the Church and a very faithful son and successor of Saint Josemaría, founder of Opus Dei. Grant that I too may respond faithfully to the demands of my Christian vocation, using every moment and event of my life to love you and serve Christ's kingdom. Deign to grant the canonisation of Blessed Alvaro, and through his intercession grant me the favour I ask of you (here make your petition). Amen.

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

HOW CAN I HELP? *This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to give a contribution to help its publication may send donations by bank transfer or cheque to the address: Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL. e-mail: ocs.uk@opusdei.org*

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