

BLESSED ALVARO DEL PORTILLO

Newsletter No. 13 | 2025

In the Jubilee Year convoked by Pope Francis

Hope and Blessed Alvaro

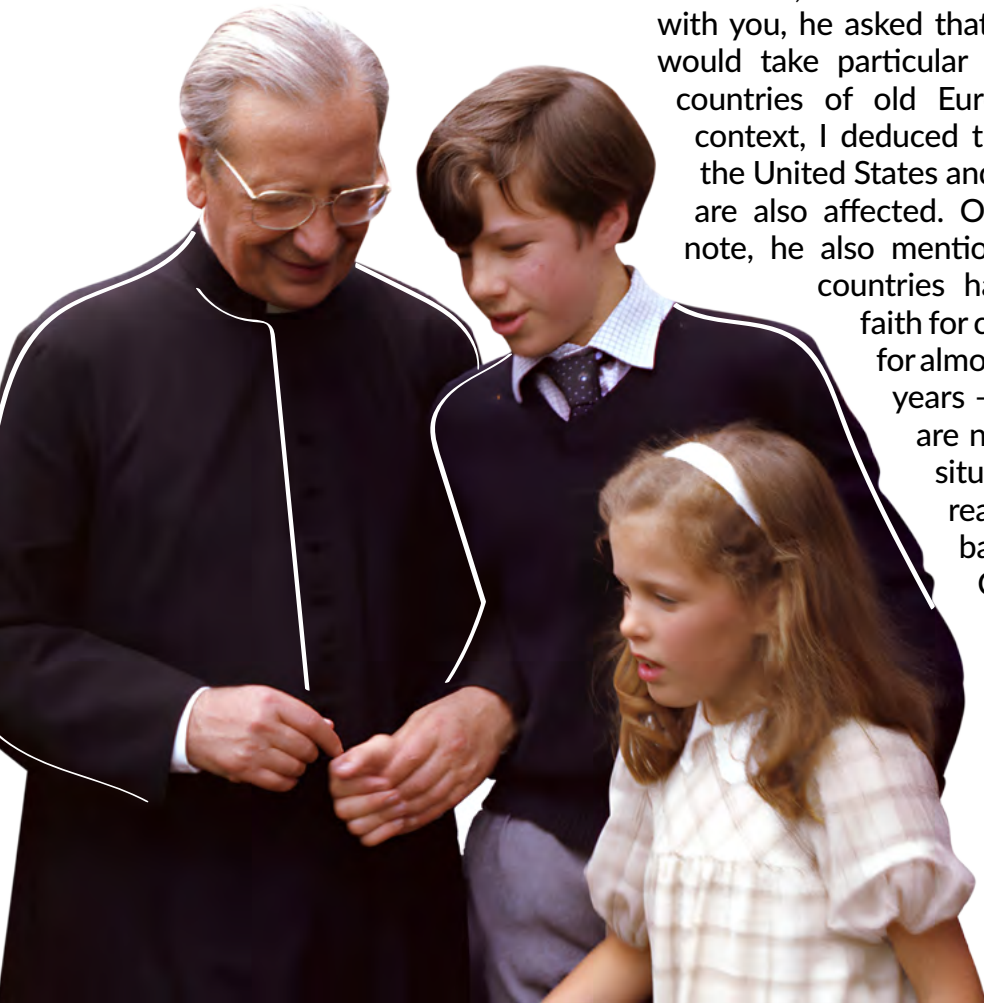
Alvaro del Portillo was an exemplary bishop and priest who served the Church at all times. In this Jubilee year convoked by Pope Francis, dedicated to Hope with the motto "Pilgrims of Hope", we want to highlight how he lived this virtue.



Vibrant with Hope

In the mid-1980s St. John Paul II invited the Church to a renewed missionary thrust. Don Alvaro immediately echoed this desire. On 25th December 1985, he wrote a pastoral letter to the faithful of the Prelature, urging them to collaborate with all their might in this task, especially in Europe, the United States and Canada: **"The Holy Father is very worried about the situation of the Church in traditionally Catholic**

areas of Europe. He has called for a new evangelisation both there and in other regions where symptoms of spiritual decay or even death are to be found. This letter is addressed to you all, my daughters and sons in those areas, to spur you on to greater efforts to reach out to more people and engage in a fresh sowing of the Gospel in those countries which have produced so many saints throughout the ages. (...) In recent audiences, as he wanted me to share with you, he asked that our apostolate would take particular interest in 'the countries of old Europe.' From the context, I deduced that he included the United States and Canada, which are also affected. On an optimistic note, he also mentioned that these countries have served the faith for centuries – some for almost two thousand years – and while they are now in a difficult situation, all they really need is to go back to their own Christian roots."



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secure in hope.



The Prelate of Opus Dei personally undertook the task, travelling frequently in the Old Continent and to North America, encouraging a variety of evangelisation initiatives.

For these apostolic initiatives to have the desired result, Don Alvaro always pointed out the same condition, as a prior and indispensable starting point: **“Let us begin,”** he would say, **“by improving ourselves, because no one gives what he does not have, and we have to bring God to souls.”** Afterwards, he urged everyone with tenacious perseverance not to falter in their efforts. To those in Germany, for example, he wrote: **“My daughters and sons, consider that the Lord urges us to collaborate with determination in the re-Christianisation of your country, by means of a capillary and constant evangelising action. This means that the Holy Spirit**

will give us the abundant graces we need to undertake each day with new vigour a task that exceeds our strength, and that this sowing will bear well-seasoned fruit. It is up to us to provide the means, full of faith, secure in hope and with a love that overcomes the coldness, indifference or hostility of hearts or environments alien to the great and demanding novelty of Christian light.”

He urged each and every member of the Work to consider how to carry the light of Christ in their own sphere: in their own home, in their manual or intellectual profession, in the world of culture, in university life, in professional, political and trade union organisations, in the means of social communication (television, press, radio, cinema, etc.), in all the honest activities of civil society.

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



Water in times of drought

Every year there is a dry spell. In my house, we had been without water for eleven days and had to carry it in buckets from a nearby reservoir. As a mother and housewife, I was very distressed by this situation. I despaired at the sight of dirty pots and dishes piled up in the sink, without being able to wash them, although I tried not to show my concern.

On Wednesday I decided to ask Don Alvaro for help. At 2:50 p.m., water began to run

through the pipes in the house, which allowed me to wash all the dishes and pots, and also some clothes. Grateful, I prayed a rosary. I went out to ask the neighbours if they had water and was surprised to find that I was the only one. When my husband arrived, I told him very excitedly that I had had recourse to Don Alvaro and that we now had water. Since that day we have not lacked water.

Costa Rica

We found the ideal apartment

My family was going through a critical time, which forced us to be separated temporarily: my two daughters in Lima with my wife, and me with my son in Piura, waiting for financial issues to be settled and to be able to be reunited. We had practically closed the deal to rent an apartment in Lima. However, on March 11th, Blessed Alvaro's birthday, the owner of the apartment changed the conditions at the last minute, which forced us to cancel the deal. With confidence in God, we travelled to Lima on the morning of Saturday, 12th March. Meanwhile, we continued entrusting this matter, so vitally important for the well-being of the family, to Blessed Alvaro, and continued praying the prayer card.

Meantime, certain financial issues were settled, allowing us to be all together in Lima.... On that same day, however, we had to find a place to live, rent out our house in Piura, and organise the whole move, with very little time for everything. It was clearly no small thing. So, on 12th March, at approximately 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we visited an apartment that was ideal: a reasonable rent, spacious, just three or four blocks from my son's school. We thanked Don Alvaro for the favour, certain that his intercession had been decisive... but as a friend of mine says, "when you persist in asking him, Don Alvaro exceeds every expectation!"

Peru

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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