

Decree of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognizing the heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Álvaro del Portillo (June 28, 2012)

CONGREGATIO DE CAUSIS SANCTORUM

ROMANA

et PRAELATURAE PERSONALIS SANCTAE CRUCIS et OPERIS DEI

BEATIFICATIONIS et CANONIZATIONIS

SERVI DEI

ALVARI DEL PORTILLO Y DIEZ DE SOLLANO

EPISCOPI TITULARIS VITENSIS

PRAELATI PRAELATURAE PERSONALIS SANCTAE CRUCIS ET OPERIS DEI

(1914 - 1994)

DECRETUM SUPER VIRTUTIBUS

“Vir fidelis multum laudabitur” (Prv 28, 20). Sacrae haec Scripturae verba in luce ponunt eminentiorem virtutem Episcopi Alvari del Portillo, nempe fidelitatem: inconcussam imprimis fidelitatem erga Deum, in prompta ac generosa adimpletione voluntatis Eius, erga Ecclesiam dein et Romanum Pontificem necnon erga sacerdotium, deinde vero erga christianam vocationem in omni temporis momento omnibusque rerum adiunctis.

“Fidelitas per tempus perseverans nomen est amoris,” dixit Benedictus XVI (Homilia in sanctuario Beatissimae Virginis Mariae de Fatima, die 12 mensis Maii anno 2010). Dei Servus omnibus christifidelibus caritatis et fidelitatis exemplo fuit. Ipse enim integre et sine ulla exceptione assimilavit in suaque vita expressit Operis Dei spiritum, qui omnes vocat ad plenitudinem amoris Dei ac proximi quaerendam per sanctificationem munerum atque officiorum quae vitae nostrae cotidianae velut tramam constituunt. “Laborem sanctificare, in labore sese sanctificare, alios mediante labore sanctificare”: recte asseri potest haec verba aptissime referre Servi Dei operositatem qua doctor machinarius, qua sacerdos ac demum qua Episcopus. In quocumque enim actuositatis genere sese totum impendebat, apprime sciens se salvificam Ecclesiae missionem participare per fidelem suorum cuiusque diei officiorum adimpletionem.

Dei Servus, tertius ex octo fratribus, ortus est Matrity a piis honestisque parentibus, die 11 mensis Martii anno 1914. Doctoralem lauream obtinuit in re machinaria civili, in scientiis historicis et in iure canonico. Anno 1935, suae vitae vicesimo primo, Operi Dei adhaesit ac confestim Sanctus Iosephmaria validissimum suum collaboratorem eum habuit. Die 25 mensis Iunii anno 1944 sacerdotalem ordinationem recepit et ex tunc sacro ministerio exercendo sese profudit. Ab ipsa ordinationis die confessarius fuit Sancti Iosephmariae. Anno 1946 Romam se contulit, ad Conditorem adiuvandum in Operis Dei moderamine et propagatione: fuit videlicet Secretarius Generalis (annis 1939-1946 et 1956-1975), Consiliarius pro Italia (annis 1948-1951), Procurator Generalis (annis 1946-1956) et Collegii Romani Sanctae Crucis Rector (annis 1948-1954).

Operam quoque dedit multiplicibus muneribus a Sancta Sede sibi concreditis:

in Concilio Oecumenico Vaticano II munere functus est Secretarii Commissionis De disciplina cleri et populi christiani, quae redactionem Decreti Presbyterorum Ordinis curavit et fuit insuper Peritus Commissionum De Episcopis et dioecesium regimine necnon De religiosis. Nominatus est dein Consultor Sacrae Congregationis Concilii, Qualificator Supremae Congregationis Sancti Officii et Consultor Pontificiae Commissionis Codici Iuris Canonici Recognoscendo; fuit quoque Iudex in Tribunali pro causis sub competentia Congregationis pro Doctrina Fidei necnon eiusdem Congregationis Consultor. Fuit insuper Secretarius Commissionis de Institutis Saecularibus apud Sacram Congregationem de Religiosis et cooptatus est in coetum Consultorum Congregationis pro Clericis, Pontificii Consilii de Communicationibus Socialibus et Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum.

Die 15 mensis Septembris anno 1975 electus est primus Sancti Iosephmariae successor in Operis Dei moderamine, quo in munere perfungendo tamquam lemma habuit Conditoris vestigia premere seseque perdidit ut ad finem perduceret id quod Sanctus Iosephmaria ardentem desideraverat atque parere curaverat: obtinere nempe canonicam configurationem quae apte responderet charismati fundationali Operis Dei. Ad hanc metam perventum tandem est die 28 mensis Novembris anno 1982, qua die Beatus Ioannes Paulus II Opus Dei in Praelaturam personalem erexit ac Alvarum del Portillo eiusdem Praelatum nominavit. Die vero 6 mensis Ianuarii anno 1991 Dei Servus a Romano Pontifice episcopalem ordinationem recepit. Primo diluculo diei 23 mensis Martii anno 1994, paucis horis post reditum e peregrinatione in sanctis divini Salvatoris locis, Deus suum Servum ad se vocavit. Eadem die Beatus Ioannes Paulus II eius exuvias visitavit et, post orationem in silentio, elata voce antiphonam *Salve Regina* recitavit.

Pastoralis zelus Alvari del Portillo in moderamine Operis Dei, per annos 19 protracto, eo praesertim respexit ut magis magisque extenderetur apostolatus Praelaturae fidelium in Ecclesiae servitium: eo quidem tempore actuositas Operis Dei in viginti novas Nationes stabiliter dilatata est.

Pastoralis haec sollicitudo Dei Servum duxit quoque ad multa peragenda itinera ut Praelaturae fideles aliosque viros ac mulieres cuiuslibet condicionis roboraret in vita eorum spirituali et in apostolatu. In eo impulsu evangelizationis promovendo, ipse curavit semper ut actuositas apostolica Praelaturae in servitium singularum ecclesiarum particularium exerceretur. Fructus etiam sedulae eius curae de sacerdotali institutione fuit creatio Pontificiae Universitatis Sanctae Crucis in Urbe, quam Sanctus Iosephmaria expetierat. Scripta edidit de re iuridica, theologica ac spirituali, praesertim circa sacerdotium et laicatum, quae inter Laici et fideles in Ecclesia, Consecratio et missio sacerdotis, Vita Deo omnino dicata. Considerationes circa personam Iosephmariae Escrivá de Balaguer, Colloquium circa Operis Dei Conditorem.

Servi Dei deditio missioni explendae sibi concredita radicabatur in profundum sensum filiationis divinae, quo ductus identificationem cum Christo quaerebat se totum fidenti animo committens voluntati Patris, amore plenus erga Spiritum Sanctum, sine intermissione orationi vacans, Sanctissima Eucharistia necnon tenero amore erga Beatissimam Virginem Mariam roboratus.

Heroice se gessit in perferendis aegritudinibus - quas ut Christi Crucem respiciebat -, in carcere per aliquot tempus perdurante persecutione religiosa in

Hispania (annis 1936-1939) et in subeundis impugnationibus propter suam fidelitatem erga Ecclesiam. Vir erat profundae bonitatis et affabilitatis, qui pacem ac serenitatem in alios transfundebat. Nemo memorat aliquem eius gestum inurbanum vel impatientiae motum ante res adversas neque verbum vituperationis vel recusationis propter difficultates: ipse enim a Domino didicerat parcere, pro persecutoribus orare, brachia sua more sacerdotis extendere, omnes hilari vultu magnaue clementia excipere.

Servi Dei amor erga Ecclesiam apparebat in omnimoda eius communionem cum Romano Pontifice et cum Episcopis: fuit semper filius fidelissimus Petri successoris, indiscusse adhaerens eius personae eiusque magisterio. Insuper, in describenda figura huius Pastoris, praetermitti omnino nequeunt alia quaedam lineamenta, qualia sunt vividissima eius sollicitudo erga Operis Dei fideles, humilitas, prudentia, fortitudo, gaudium, simplicitas, sui abnegatio et ardens desiderium lucranda animas Christo, quod exprimebatur quoque in lemmate eius episcopali: *Regnare Christum volumus!*

Sanctitatis fama Servi Dei, iam ample diffusa eo adhuc vivente, universalem extensionem post eius mortem attinxit. Circa Servi Dei vitam, virtutes ac sanctitatis famam instructi sunt - ab anno 2004 ad annum 2008 - duo processus aequae principales apud Tribunal Vicariatus Urbis et apud Tribunal Praelaturae, necnon octo processus rogatoriales in dioecesibus Europae, Americae Septentrionalis ac Meridionalis et Australiae. Congressus peculiaris Consultorum Theologorum, qui locum habuit die 10 mensis Februarii anno 2012, omnium consensione affirmative respondit ad dubium propositum circa heroicam virtutum et famam sanctitatis Servi Dei. Ponente Em.mo D.no Card. Antonio Cañizares Llovera et me, Card. Angelo Amato, moderante, sententiam faventem tulerunt Em.mi ac Exc.mi Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum Membra in Sessione Ordinaria coadunati die 5 mensis Iunii anno 2012.

Facta de hisce omnibus Summo Pontifici Benedicto XVI accurata relatione ab infrascripto Cardinali Praefecto, Beatissimus Pater, accipiens rataque habens Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum vota, hodierna die sollemniter declaravit: Constare de virtutibus theologalibus Fide, Spe et Caritate tum in Deum tum in proximum, necnon de cardinalibus Prudentia, Iustitia, Temperantia, Fortitudine, iisque adnexis in gradu heroico, atque de fama sanctitatis Servi Dei Alvari del Portillo y Diez de Sollano, Episcopi tit. Vitensis, Praelati Praelaturae personalis Sanctae Crucis et Operis Dei, in casu et ad effectum de quo agitur.

Hoc autem decretum publici iuris fieri et in acta Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum Summus Pontifex referri mandavit.

Datum Romae, die 28 mensis Iunii a.D. 2012.

ANGELUS Card. AMATO, S.D.B.
Praefectus

L. + S.

@ MARCELLUS BARTOLUCCI
Archiep. tit. Mevaniensis
a Secretis

A translation of the Decree of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognizing the heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Álvaro del Portillo (June 28, 2012)

CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

ROME

and the PERSONAL PRELATURE of the HOLY CROSS and OPUS DEI

BEATIFICATION and CANONIZATION

of The Servant of God

ÁLVARO DEL PORTILLO y DIEZ DE SOLLANO

Titular Bishop of Vita

Prelate of the Personal Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei

(1914 – 1994)

DECREE ON THE VIRTUES

Vir fidelis multum laudabitur (Prov 28:20). These words of Sacred Scripture manifest the most characteristic virtue of Bishop Álvaro del Portillo: fidelity. He lived an unquestioned fidelity to God, carrying out his will promptly and generously; fidelity to the Church and the Pope, fidelity to his priesthood, and fidelity to his vocation as a Christian in every moment and circumstance of his life.

“Faithfulness over time is the name of love,” said Pope Benedict XVI (Homily at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Fatima, May 12, 2010). The Servant of God was a living example of charity and fidelity for all Christians. He lived the spirit of Opus Dei wholeheartedly, in an exemplary way, without exceptions or shortcuts of any kind. Opus Dei calls Christians to seek the fullness of the love of God and neighbor through the sanctification of the ordinary tasks that make up their day. “To sanctify one’s work; to sanctify oneself in that work and to sanctify others through that work”: this is the way to describe the intense life of the Servant of God, first as an engineer, then in his priestly ministry and lastly as a Bishop. In each and every activity, he gave himself completely, knowing that it was there that he was meant to assist the saving mission of the Church.

The Servant of God was born in Madrid on March 11, 1914 of devout and God-fearing parents, the third of eight children. He earned doctorates in Civil Engineering, in History, and in Canon Law. In 1935, when he was 21 years old, he joined Opus Dei. The Founder, St. Josemaría, soon discovered in him a most effective helper. On June 25, 1944 he was ordained a priest. From then onwards he dedicated himself to his priestly ministry. The very day he was ordained St. Josemaría chose him as his confessor. In 1946 he established his residence in Rome to assist the Founder in the governance and expansion of Opus Dei. He was Secretary General of Opus Dei (1939-1946 and 1956-1975), Counselor for Italy (1948-1951), Procurator General (1946-1956), and Rector of the Roman College of the Holy Cross (1948-1954).

He diligently carried out many tasks entrusted to him by the Holy See. During the Second Vatican Council he was appointed Secretary of the Commission

De disciplina cleri et populi christiani, which drafted the decree *Presbyterorum ordinis*. He was also a *Peritus* (expert) on the Commissions *De Episcopis et diocesium regimine* and *De religiosis*. After the Council he was made Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, Qualificator of the Supreme Congregation of the Holy Office and Consultor of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law. He was a Judge of the Tribunal for the causes that fall under the competence of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Consultor of the same Congregation. He was also Secretary of the Commission for Secular Institutes within the Sacred Congregation for Religious, Consultor of the Congregation for Clergy, of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications and of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

On September 15, 1975 he was elected as the first successor to St. Josemaría as head of Opus Dei. The central element of his program of governance was continuity in the application of the teachings of the Founder. Furthermore, he dedicated his best energies in carrying out one particular task deeply desired and largely prepared by St. Josemaría: obtaining the proper canonical configuration to reflect the founding charism of Opus Dei. This was achieved on November 28, 1982, when Blessed John Paul II erected Opus Dei as a Personal Prelature and appointed Álvaro del Portillo as Prelate. On January 6, 1991 the Servant of God received episcopal ordination from the Roman Pontiff. Early on the morning of March 23, 1994, a few hours after returning from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, God called his servant to Himself. That same day Blessed John Paul II attended the wake, and, after praying in silence, recited out loud the hymn *Salve Regina*.

During his nineteen years as the head of Opus Dei, Álvaro del Portillo's pastoral zeal fostered the spread of the apostolates of the faithful of the Prelature in the service of the Church to twenty new countries.

His apostolic concern led him to make trips to many different countries, with a view to encouraging the faithful of the Prelature and many other men and women of all walks of life in their spiritual life and apostolate. In his work of evangelization, he tried to ensure that the apostolic activity of the Prelature was always carried out in the service of the local Church. In his concern for the doctrinal formation of priests, he founded the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, a project which St. Josemaría had encouraged. He wrote numerous juridical, theological and spiritual works of note concerning the priesthood and the laity, such as *Faithful and Laity in the Church; Consecration and Mission of the Priest; Una vida para Dios. Reflexiones en torno a la figura de Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer; Immersed in God: Blessed Josemaría Escrivá, Founder of Opus Dei*.

The Servant of God based his dedication to the mission he received on a deep sense of divine sonship. This led him to seek to identify himself with Christ in a trusting self-abandonment to the will of the Father and love for the Holy Spirit. He sought to be constantly immersed in prayer, strengthened by the Eucharist and by a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He displayed heroism in facing illness, in which he saw the Cross of Christ, as well as in his brief imprisonment during the period of religious persecution in Spain (1936-1939), and in the mistreatment received on account of his fidelity to the Church. He was a man of profound goodness and affability, sowing peace and serenity to those around him. No one can recall a discourteous

gesture, signs of impatience, nor words of reproach or protest in response to the difficulties he encountered. Rather, he learned from God to forgive, to pray for one's persecutors and to open his priestly arms welcoming one and all with a smile and with great mercy.

The Servant of God demonstrated his love for the Church by his constant union with the Roman Pontiff and with the Bishops: he was always a most faithful son to the Successor of Peter, faithfully adhering to his person and teaching. In describing the figure of this Pastor, what stands out above all is his vigorous solicitude for all the faithful of Opus Dei. His humility, prudence, fortitude, joy, his simplicity, his self-abnegation and his ardent desire to win souls for Christ can be all summed up in his episcopal motto: *Regnare Christum volumus!* (We want Christ to reign!)

The fame of holiness of the Servant of God, already recognized during his own lifetime, spread throughout the whole world in the years following his death. Between 2004 and 2008 two canonical processes *æque principales* were carried out regarding the life, virtues and reputation of holiness of the Servant of God at the Tribunal of the Vicariate of Rome and the Tribunal of the Prelature, as well as eight rogatory inquiries in different dioceses of Europe, North America, South America and Australia. A special Congress of Theological Censors took place on February 10, 2012, and gave a unanimous positive response against proposed doubts regarding the heroic exercise of virtue and reputation of holiness of the Servant of God. The members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints gave a favorable opinion at the Ordinary Congregation convened on June 5, 2012, over which I, Cardinal Angelo Amato, presided, and in which the Relator was his Eminence Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera

Upon presentation of the summary of the different phases of the process to the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI by the undersigned Cardinal Prefect, the Holy Father, accepting and ratifying the evaluation of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, today solemnly declared: Clear evidence exists as to the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, towards both God and neighbor, as well as the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude, with their associated virtues, in heroic degree, and of the reputation of holiness of the Servant of God Álvaro del Portillo y Díez de Sollano, titular Bishop of Vita, Prelate of the Personal Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei; this is established in this case and for purposes attendant thereon.

The Holy Father has ordered that this Decree be made public and be recorded in the acts of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Given in Rome on the 28th day of June in the year of the Lord, 2012.

ANGELUS Card. AMATO, S.D.B.
Prefect

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Titular Archbishop of Mevania
Secretary