

journalism in several countries, and urged forward—with his human initiative and his prayer—the start of several media initiatives by people of Opus Dei and their friends. He dreamed of many Catholics choosing as their professional field the world of movies, literature, entertainment, radio and television. If your kind words of appreciation, for which I thank you, are a reflection of reality, it is undoubtedly due to the seed planted by the founder.

Thanks be to God, I think that today people generally view social communication positively—which does not exclude a critical reflection on the limits of a certain type of sensationalistic journalism. It gives me joy to see the large number of activities of evangelization that, through the means of communication, are arising all over, thanks to the efforts of Catholics: news agencies, web pages with Christian orientation, charitable and service initiatives on the internet, producers of movies and television programs with Christian values. Sometimes these are not widely known, but if you add up their audiences they surpass quite a few international media outlets.

Interest in social communication is clearly growing in most dioceses and Church institutions. Many, for example, are sending students to the school of Church Communications at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross,

in Rome. This program has as its aim training people to transmit effectively the Christian message and the marvelous reality of the Church, through the means of communication

Interview Granted to *Avvenire*, Italy (August 29, 2014)

Francesco Ognibene

What are the “existential peripheries” to which Opus Dei’s efforts are directed?

Pope Francis often speaks of offering a living testimony to the Gospel by assisting people in situations of poverty, both material and spiritual. The “existential peripheries” he speaks about are not far away; frequently they are found at our side and challenge us personally. The faithful of the Prelature of Opus Dei live in very diverse situations, but they always find themselves facing the same challenge: to go out to help solve mankind’s needs. Whether they live in the so-called “rich countries” or in “developing” ones, the “peripheries” are always present there, and the faithful of the Prelature try to respond to the spiritual and material needs that continually accompany the human condition.

You knew Don Alvaro del Portillo very well, the first successor of St. Josemaría Escrivá. What memories do you have of him?

The memories are very numerous. I will limit myself to saying that he was a man of peace—deeply spiritual and deeply human. It was a peace that didn't rest on human reasons, but on placing all his trust in God. I was a witness to how, even in difficult moments, Don Alvaro always kept a perspective of faith and serenity, leading others to be understanding, to dialogue, to overcoming confrontations.

He sought to be fully dedicated to the service of others. When he visited a country, even the most distant, he was concerned about the needs of the local population. And afterwards, with a calm but decisive spirit, he encouraged the faithful of Opus Dei and many others to respond to that need with specific deeds. Thus over time dozens of educational institutions, hospitals and training centers became a reality all over the world.

The "Rimini Meeting" is an initiative in which young people especially take part. What can we do today so that the new generations have a personal encounter with the faith?

Young people have an immense yearning for great ideals. They know what it means to give

oneself for an ideal. The Meeting, which began with a group of young people eager to give Christian witness in society, reflects this concern. I was very impressed by the volunteers: young people (and not so young) who are dedicating their vacations to assisting people here and helping everything run well. It shows how people respond generously when they are offered high goals and challenges. I was also impressed by the joy of so many families present here.

Interview with *Alfa y Omega*, Spain (September 25, 2014)

*Juan Luis Vázquez Díaz-
Mayordomo*

When did you first meet Don Alvaro? What impressions remain from that first meeting? After so many years at his side, what is the first thing that comes to mind on recalling him?

My meeting Don Alvaro is inseparable from my meeting St. Josemaría, when I was sixteen. For many years, he was the older brother on whom St. Josemaría could rely very especially, and the rest of us tried to imitate his example. I can assure you that from