## 新聞摘要

主業團東亞區資訊社所編輯之期刊 主業團是羅馬天主教會內的一個屬人監督團 由聖若瑟瑪利亞施禮華創辦。

## events

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## 主業團東亞區資訊社

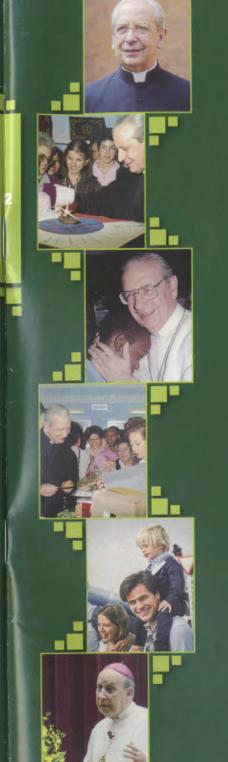
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監督的新加坡,韓國,台灣之行

www.josemanaescriva.info (見證)

## 感謝主業團帶領我成為天主教徒

認識了天主教會道理後,我決定成為天主教徒 WL,澳門,2014年10月22日

#### 與基督相遇、認識天主教

(Translation)

正當本人就讀澳門一所基督教學校小 學,由於在學習及生活中先後遇到了 不同的困難、迷惘與失望的際遇,故 此本人主動參加了一些校園的基督教 團契活動,亦即我是在人生困惑中與 基督相遇的。因信賴基督,從中再次 獲得生活的勇氣和毅力;到了大學預 科學習,巧遇若瑟一個主業團的成 員,認識了主業團,對天主教信仰埋 下萌芽的種子。



#### 主業團的信德指導、決定成為天主教徒

在親屬離別、家庭生活和職業生涯中,隨著不同經歷,感受過往基督 教對天主的認識零碎且停留於表。有幸與主業團保持著一定的聯繫, 並於 2013 年初成為澳門主業團協助人,通過主業團文祖賢神父、若 瑟、托尼協助,使我對天主教信仰有進一步的瞭解,例如:認識到天 主教為從宗徒傳下來的教會、祈禱方法、領受聖體的意義、拜苦路和 告解的程序等。漸漸地身隨意行,並已成為一位天主教徒,2014 年 4 月份於澳門花地瑪聖母堂受洗,以基督的愛作為終生學習之目標。為 了朝向教徒成聖的目標,模仿基督,個人認為心態上可以學習 凡事以 主耶穌基督為先,同時抱著適當的犧牲精神,把天主慈悲放在心中, 活在天主愛德之中。從生活的經歷,可以肯定地説成為一位天主教 徒,生命會活得更精彩和快樂,並且更有意義。

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#### (Translation)

#### 使徒工作生活聖化、協助親人和朋友更接近天主

在主業團的學習中,帶領我把基督融合在職業及生活中,例如教學 工作、家庭生活和子女教育等。方向是作天主喜歡我們作的事情,例 如:在為人處世之品格上活出基督模式、學習奉獻和與主同在,凡事 懷著感欣之心,聖化工作的方式包含良心和用心,目標為光榮天主, 並按天主旨意而行。於2009年6月當我成為父親,初次體驗父親對 兒女的愛,間接體會天父的愛。為了把親人和朋友更接近天主,使徒 工作計劃上首先通過靈修,所謂「吾日三醒吾身」,反思對工作和家 庭的角色、工作和責任可以改善的空間;行動上,基於平信徒的角色 為傳遞福音,通過生活上的個人行為、教會信息的分享,並向身旁的 朋友介紹天主教的活動,另外對主業團部分社會服務事工的參與和協 助,希望可以把天主教的福音傳至身邊每一位所愛的人心中,認識這 位父親。

### 我與主業團的奇遇記

當某些偶然發生的事件串聯起來時, 令我不奇然想世界竟是這麼小, 還是一切都是天主奧妙的安排呢?

廖惇孟 James TM Liao 見證 2014 年 10 月 13 日



2008 年 9 月筆者因為籌辦教會文化資產保存研習活動,拜訪了台中 教區的第一個天主堂 — 羅厝耶穌聖名堂,在教堂內與本堂司鐸林天 德神父閒聊,他問我有沒有參加主業團,我回答沒有;林神父接著説 或許未來這個團體會有興趣與我接觸,而我當時因為不認識主業團, 所以並沒有特別再繼續這個話題。但沒想到神父無心的一句話,讓我 現在敲打著鍵盤,來見證認識主業團的奇遇。

與林神父的那段談話似乎不是很重要,曾經一度被我的大腦下放到資 源回收桶,不過現在看來終究並沒在人腦記憶體裏被刪除!話説研習 活動後一年,也就是2009年9月,數個颱風接連侵襲菲律賓,造成 了非常嚴重的水災,因此台中教區蘇耀文主教請我與一位有心幫助家 鄉的菲律賓華僑醫師連繫,看看是否能提供協助。就在連絡的過程 中,赫然發現原來這位來自菲律賓的華僑,竟然是失聯十多年的朋友 林大鐘醫師,早年認識他的時候我還不是天主教徒,沒想到再見到他 時,我們擁有了同樣的信仰。

林醫師與幾位在台灣的菲律賓華人朋友,因為不忍看著家鄉同胞 受水患之苦,以人溺己溺的精神共同發起了賑災活動(St. Michael Project),其中一位發起人是主業團的吳培根神父(Fr. Derrick Barria Go)。因為籌備 St. Michael Project,我與林醫師及吳神父有了比較經 常性的聯繫;也開始了我認識主業團的第一步;然而當時的互動幾乎 都忙於活動的籌劃與進行,並沒有馬上想起 2008 年林神父的那段談 話。

菲律賓賑災很快順利完成後,2010 年筆者邀請吳神父及林醫師再投 入另一個援助非洲貧童的國際志工活動;值得一提的是,吳神父在台 北邀請朋友協助募款工作,其中一位提供協助的主業團朋友 Robert Chang,竟然是我國中同學的弟弟!從失聯的朋友到同學的弟弟,到 底該説是巧合?是世界太小?還是天主有我們測不透的旨意?一連串 的公益活動結束後,當年林神父在羅厝天主堂與我談話的內容,突然 浮現腦海;的確事事有天主所安排,事事有定時(訓3:1-15),當年與 林神父閒聊談到主業團的話題,曾經深埋記憶,但現在回想起來,每 個片段卻是如此清晰。

吳培根神父後來也固定每兩周來台中陪伴教友,鼓勵大家學習聖化日 常生活的價值,也提供經常辦理告解的機會;吳神父的定期靈修陪伴 讓人獲益良多,解開我個人在信仰價值與真實生活中的矛盾。主業團 強調生活的合一,將個人與天主結合的內修生活以及使徒工作,合諧 地融合在日常當中,活出精神與肉體的合一生活。神父在陪伴中常提 醒的就是練習每日自我省察和紀律,這樣的練習讓習於病態忙碌生活 的我,逐漸懂得更倚靠天主,也與聖施禮華成了好朋友(我想在天上 的聖施禮華應該不會反對才是!)。

為什麼説和聖施禮華成了好朋友呢?第一次與吳神父見面的時候,他 送了一本聖施禮華的書一「道路」,我禮貌性接受了這小本書,隨意 翻了幾頁後發現聖施禮華意簡言駭不拖泥帶水,真是字字珠璣。裡面 每一個字句,都值得探索與自省,更重要的是讓我們以行為及生活把 聖施禮華的生命智慧與聖神啟示連貫起來,學習與天父生活與相處。 透過「道路」這本書,我開始對這位聖人產生興趣,在蒐集相關聖施禮 華的資訊時,我發現了一系列紀錄片。 聖施禮華在裡面的簡短談話, 快速直衝我的腦門,如果以中國功夫來講就是「拳拳到肉」,似乎他就 站在我的面前談話,就像朋友的提醒、兄弟的陪伴,有時候像是父親 的教導;他簡直就是我的良師益友。

某天我在網路上找到聖施禮華的網站,裏面有一個「聖施禮華求職九 日敬禮」跳上了電腦螢幕,雖然我並沒有要求職,但是好奇心驅使我 打開檔案一看,哇!簡直挖到寶,他說「工作是通往成聖的道路」,這 不就是我心裏期盼的生活化修行最佳工具嗎!那時剛好有一位長期協 助教會慈善工作的志工 — 梁玉鳳姊妹請我為他先生的眼睛健康還有 家人盡快歸主祈禱,我想「福傳」和「為他人的需要祈禱」應該是每個 基督徒的「工作」,那我就以聖施禮華的九日敬禮為基礎,再稍微加入 個人意向來為梁姊妹的需要祈禱。我同時也邀請她一起加入九日敬禮 的規律祈禱,過了幾個星期後,梁姊妹見證分享說雖然她先生的眼睛 還沒有回復正常視力,但是過去先生對於太太的熱心服務偶有微詞, 自從我們開始聖施禮華九日敬禮後,她的先生竟然不再責難,反而在 外人面前肯定太太的慈善志工服事;這真是令人驚喜的好見證!

回首當年林神父一句話竟無心插柳柳成蔭,筆者除認識了主業團,也 接受邀請成為協助人及參加培育課程。過程中不斷見證天主的恩寵, 還有逐漸領悟在建設基督奧體中我個人所能分擔的工作使命(教會憲 章32:雖然在教會內每人所循的道路不同,可是大家都有成聖的使命, 都因天主的正義共享同樣的信德。雖然由於基督的意願,某些人被立 為他人的導師、分施奧蹟、人的管理者,可是論地位,論全體信友共 有的建設基督奧體的工作,在眾人中仍存著真正的平等)。感謝天主 恩賜我結緣主業團,那就像是腳前明燈指引我人生的方向,也修正我 走的道路。筆耕至此除了感恩還是感恩,文末懇求瓜達露貝聖母為主 業團在華人地區的使徒工作代禱,祈求全能天主帶領主業團幫助更多 人學習在日常生活中成聖。

### **主業團首任繼承人歐華路主教於馬德里獲宣真福** 歐華路主教 2014 年 9 月 27 日

主業團首任繼承人歐華路主教,於2014年9月27日在西班牙馬德里, 由教廷冊封聖人部部長安繼羅 • 艾馬托樞機主教 (Cardinal Angelo Amato)主持列真福大典,並於典禮中説明他一生英勇的事蹟,宣認 歐華路主教為真福。

本次典禮有來自世界各地八十幾個國家之朋友、協助人及會員們共約 三十萬人参加這項聖典,台灣朝聖團由榮休之前任台北教區狄剛總主 教帶隊,香港則由李斌生輔理主教率領朝聖團參予整個列真福大典。

教宗方濟各於 2014 年 6 月 26 日 (即聖施禮華的慶日) 致函予主業團 監督蔡浩偉主教,其內容如下:

親愛的浩偉吾兄:

天主忠僕歐華路,是主業團創辦人聖施禮華的忠實助手和首位繼承 人,他的獲宣真福,給你和主業團的所有信友帶來了一個特殊的歡樂 時刻。長久以來,你見證了他對天主和對他人的愛,和對教會及自己 聖召的忠信。我也願意分享你們的歡樂,及向天主感恩,祂藉著教會 子民的聖德而使教會日趨完美。

歐華路的宣真福禮會在馬德里舉行,馬德里是他出生的地方,在那裡,他渡過了他的童年和青春年華,期間使他鍛鍊出家庭生活的簡 樸,友情 及為他人的服務,比如他走到一些貧民區,為許多人提供了 人性及靈性的培育。最重要的,是他在那裡遇上了聖施禮華,並從他 身上學會了怎樣每天更愛基督,從此奠定下了他一生的路程。是的: 去愛上基督。這就是每個基督徒都該走上的,通往成聖的道路:讓自 己受到上主的愛,打開自己的心靈去接納祂的愛,讓祂指引自己的生 命。

我喜歡回想歐華路常用的,尤其是在節日和周年紀念日使用的一句短 誦:「謝謝、對不起、多幫助我!」這句説話使我們能更加接近他的內 修生活和與主親密交往的真諦,也能幫助我們使自己的基督化生活得 到一個新動力。 (Translation)



第一個是「謝謝」,它是一個人靈在經歷到天主的美善時立即和自然反 應,除此以外別無他法,祂總是比我們早一步,無論我們有多努力, 祂的愛情總是早一步,首先接觸到我們,撫摸著我們。祂走在我們的 前面,歐華路察覺到天主賜了給他的許多恩惠,並因為這些天主父愛 的表示而感謝祂,但他並不止於感恩,他對主愛的認知,使他心內燃 起了一種願望,要更慷慨和無私地跟隨祂,和謙虛地為服務他人而生 活。特別是他對基督的淨配教會,使他以脱俗的心服侍她,全心與人 共事、對所有人友善、經常地留意他人的優點、留意著與人達成共識、 有建設性的事物。他從不抱怨或批評,甚至在特別困難的時刻也是這 樣,相反,正如他從聖施禮華身上所學到的,他的回應是祈禱、寬恕、 諒解和真誠的愛德。

「對不起」,他很多次承認他視自己為站在天主跟前兩手空空,未能回 應祂的寬宏大量。但是這對自身的貧乏的承認,不是由於望德的缺 乏,而是由於對天父的信賴和寄託,這種對祂的慈愛的接納,能使我 們再生,這種愛不會使人羞慚,或陷人落於罪疚的谷底。祂會擁抱我 們,把我們從跌倒中重新站起來,更有決心和更歡樂地前進。天主忠 僕歐華路知道我們需要天主的垂憐,所以不遺餘力地鼓勵與他接觸的 人去辦修和聖事,這一歡樂的聖事,感受到天主之愛,發覺到仍有時 間去愛,是很重要的。

「多幫助我」,是的,上主永不會放棄我們,祂經常在我們左右,祂和 我們走在一起,每天都等待著我們給祂一個新的,愛的表示,我們永 遠不會缺少祂的恩寵。藉著祂的助佑,我們能把祂的聖名帶到世界各 地,在真福歐華路的心中敲打著將福音傳揚到所有人心的渴望。所以 他訪問了許多國家,鼓動著不同的福傳計劃,絕不因遇上困難而停滯 不前,卻以他對主對人的愛為動力,一個沉浸於天主的人能知道怎樣 與人接近,要向他人宣揚基督,首先是要愛他人,因為基督已經愛了 他們,我們必須脫離自私安逸,主動地接觸我們的弟兄,在那裡,上 主正在等候著我們,我們不能把信德收藏起來,它是天主的恩賜,我 們接受了的,就必需把它分施給他人。

「謝謝、對不起、多幫助我!」這句話表達了一個以天主為中心的生活,一個受了大愛所感動,把一生奉獻給這個大愛的人,一個雖然自知卑微有限,卻依賴著上主的垂憐,並切願所有人,他的弟兄,也能 成為如是的人。

我親愛的浩偉吾兄,真福歐華路給了我們一個清楚的信息,他告訴我 們要信賴天主,祂是我們的弟兄,我們的朋友,祂永遠不會令我們失 望,祂永遠會在我們左右,他鼓勵著我們要排除萬難,為了傳佈福音 而受苦難,他教我們藉著日常簡樸的生活而找尋成聖的正路。

我熱切地請求主業團所有信友,神父和平信徒,以及所有來參與各項 活動的人為我祈禱,同時我也給你們宗座降福。

願耶穌降福你們。願聖母看顧你們。

你的弟兄

方濟各

## 主業團主教展示「浩瀚信德」—— 傳記作者之回憶

#### **Kevin Jones**

紐約市,2014年1月28日4:21am (CNA/EWTN News) —— 根據 傳記作家記述,即將舉行的主業團監督歐華路主教的宣福禮,將再一 次彰顯這位深具信德、熱愛天主者的重要性。

「他是一個隨和的人。他甚至會跟梵蒂岡的門房當朋友。門房員 工會來跟他打招呼。主教對於每一個人都深表興趣,」Seton Hall University 教授 John Coverdale 1 月 24 日告訴 CNA。「沒有太多人 會對門房員工表示興趣吧。」

歐華路主教原籍西班牙馬德里,從 1975 年一直帶領主業屬人監督團 直到 1994 年離世止。他將會於 9 月 27 日在馬德里榮昇真福,由冊封 聖人部樞機 Angelo Amato 主禮。

Coverdale 續說:「他深信天主,相信主業團是天主對教會的部分計劃。 他相信被召投入整個生命,為能使這計劃落實,」

「他正正這樣做了。他貫徹始終,直到晚年油盡燈枯之時,仍在賣力 地工作。」

歐華路主教曾攻讀電機工程,並獲得哲學、人文學科及教會法的博士 學位。



他 1935 年加入主業團,旋即成為聖施禮華的緊密合作者。後者創立 這團體,為促進天主教平信徒的靈性成長及對宗徒使命的貢獻。這團 體教導會員善用工作和日常生活的一般事務與主相遇。

Coverdale 是一位税務法律教授,從 1957 年起,成為主業團的成員, 他也是這監督團歷史的撰寫人。現在,他忙於撰寫歐華路主教的生平 傳記。

教授説, 歐華路主教的個性與聖施禮華的「熱情洋溢」和「精力充沛」 「大相徑庭」。

「歐華路兄弟屬於那一類較安靜的人,」他解釋道。

然而,他的一生總展示出對教會的「完全聽候」。他曾經服務梵蒂岡不 同部門和委員會。在梵蒂岡第二次大公會議期間,曾經擔任委員會的 秘書和神學專家顧問。

「他曾對一個被梵蒂岡委以重任的伙伴如此説:『只須要回答 "是",便可以了』」Coverdale 説。

教授本人在 1960 年代起,五、六年間在主業團的總部內工作和進修, 一直在聖施禮華身旁。那時,主教常常「隱居幕後」。

「他不會惹人注目。只會隱退在創辦人背後,幫忙打點一切。」

Coverdale 驚訝于如此「雄才偉略」的人會自甘聽候差遣,在需要幫忙時,他才會露面。

他形容主教在主業團的重要性為「非同凡響」。除了作為監督團創辦人 的緊密合作者, 歐華路主教對於這組織的精神擁有十分強烈的觸覺。

自從聖施禮華逝世,他便幫忙延續主業團的精神和實踐,同時鞏固組 織作為監督團的地位 —— 在聖教法典內一種特別的架構 —— 亦協助 創辦人封聖的程序能順利進行。

Coverdale 憶述,聖施禮華的去世對主教無異是一記沉重之打擊。畢 竟,他們在同一團體相處舉凡三十多載,同餐共桌,並肩作戰。 www.catholicnewsagency.com (消息)

「他對聖施禮華懷有深邃的感情,聖者之逝去,他最為悲痛莫名。」

(Translation)

與其暗自憂傷,歐華路主教旋即「執起韁繩」,洋洋灑灑寫下三四十頁 書信,向主業團成員宣述創辦人逝世的種種。

「這定是一項極為沉重的工作,我肯定他邊寫邊飲泣。」Coverdale 憶 及。「但他瞭解,照顧他人是他責無旁貸的本份。」

傳記作者又論到,主教「熱衷祈禱」的程度,令人驚訝。

「他不單每天舉行彌撒聖祭,唸日課、恭唸玫瑰經,亦最少默想一個小時。」 傳記作家記述。「很多時,他會在乘車時唸上好幾串玫瑰經。」

「在很多不同的情況中,你會看到他轉向祈禱,作為解決問題的途徑, 也藉此祈求天主沛降恩寵給主業團和普世教會。」

自從主教於 1994 年過世, 很多人也會在祈禱中求他代禱。

2013 年 7 月,教宗方濟各確認,一個經歐華路主教代禱而獲得的奇 蹟。這是一個 2003 年 8 月發生的治癒奇蹟。一名智利初生男嬰經歷 長達三十分鐘的心臟病發和嚴重出血。

雖然醫療小組判定男嬰已經死去,但他的父母卻不斷的請主教轉禱。 嬰孩的心臟慢慢恢復跳動,現在已經可以正常地生活了。

Flavio Capucci 蒙席是歐華路主教的列品申請負責人,他説差不多收 到一萬二千封教友簽名信,報告他們相信透過主教的代禱而獲得的恩 寵。

一般而言,由真福昇為聖品,必需確認第二個獲得的奇蹟。

宣福禮的慶典包括探訪馬德里 Almudena 主教座堂,和其他與主教 的生平,及主業團的起源息息相關的地方。在羅馬也會舉行相關的慶 典。

現任的的主業團監督 Javier Echevarria 蔡浩偉主教談到,梵蒂崗於 1月21日宣布宣福禮的慶典,這實在是一個「極為欣喜」的時刻。他 説,歐華路主教真是「全然深愛教會、徹底服膺教會」。

### 歐華路 —— 主業團的「磐石」 及在亞洲的使命

Nirmala Carvalho

位於孟買的主業團中心主任談及歐華路主教 —— 他是主業團創辦人 聖施禮華的繼承者 —— 將於九月宣福。歐華路主教是一位「天性忠 信,凡事以天主為首,然後信守主業團精神的人」。他在梵蒂崗第二 屆大公會議(梵二)期間,擔當重要的角色,他隨後繼續與世界各地 的青年共同承擔這項使命。

孟買 (亞洲新聞):「歐蒙席的心時常緊靠著亞洲」。尤其當首批主業 團成員在 1993 年抵達新德里的時候,這個訊息更為明顯。孟買的主 業團中心主任 Kevin de Souza 先生憶及那時,歐華路主教請求世界 「為主業團在這一片偉大的土地上開展使徒工作而祈禱」。以下是引述 Kevin de Souza 先生對亞洲新聞談及歐華路蒙席這位將於九月二十七 日在馬德里宣福的訪談紀錄。

真輻歐華路的一生和他的使命跟今日有何關係?

歐華路常常被視為忠信的標記。主業團的創辦人聖施禮華常常以拉丁 文「saxum」即磐石,去暱稱他。

他在二十六歲時,已被任命為主業團的秘書長。他需要監督主業團在 馬德里和其他西班牙城市使徒工作的擴展,那時他剛剛唸完土木工程 並開始賺錢過活。他卻以極平安的心態完成了所有的一切。

「他讓人留下深刻的印象」蔡浩偉主教(Javier Echevarria) 説道。他繼 歐華路辭世後,成為現任主業團的監督。

「最重要的一點是他十分看重自己是天主兒子的身分,伴隨着本性的 努力忠信到底,首要忠於我們的天主,然後就是我們創辦人留給我們 的主業團精神。歐主教在各方面都能夠完美地活出主業團的精神。他 視這種精神為骨中之骨,肉中之肉。」

他在羅馬多年來,在幾位教宗在任期間,即從教宗庇護十二世到若望 保祿二世,均獲他們邀請履行各種職務,如他曾以委員或顧問身份參 與宗座十三個部門的多份工 作。

他在梵二期間擔當積極的角 色。從1959 至1966 年, 若望廿三世委任他為諮議會 聖部(Sacred Congregation of the Council)的顧問神 父。

在梵二之前,他曾任職平 信徒委員會(Commission for the Laity)的主席。在 梵二期間(1962-65),他則 擔任司鐸及基督徒紀律委 員會(Commission for the Discipline of the Clergy and of the Christian People)的 秘書。



在梵二之後,保祿六世於 1966 年委任他為梵二後主教及教區行政 委員會 (post-conciliar Commission for Bishops and the regulation of dioceses) 的顧問神父。

他多年來亦為信理部 (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) 擔 任顧問神父。

#### 真福歐華路是否心繫亞洲?

從歐主教開始修讀土木工程學位之始,他就心繫亞洲。在西班牙內戰 期間,他想到可以善用時間去學習另一種語言,好能於日後在偏遠的 地方開展主業團使徒工作之用。他便選修讀日文。

即使最後日本之行未能成行,多年後,歐華路主教作為主業團監督仍 對亞洲國家心繫神往。 1987 年,他探訪了新加坡、台灣、香港、南韓、日本和菲律賓以及 其他亞洲國家。

自從 1976 年開始,他總設法在印度開展主業團的工作。1993 年,主 業團終於來到新德里。歐主教致函全世界的主業團中心請求為這片新 大陸的工作祈禱。

#### 他怎樣關注和關心年青人呢?

在 1960 年代,一位危地馬拉青年來到印度尋求靈修。回國時,他身 穿藏紅色長袍。在航班上,他恰巧地坐在一位年青天主教神父旁邊。 他們談得興高采烈,有談不完的話題,但那神父到某段時間便停下, 因他説他要作祈禱。

這小伙子不曉得那是甚麼回事,但這的確給他留下深刻的印象。多年後,他回憶説,那就是他回歸天主教信仰的轉捩點。

事實上,他是在婚後才發現到他主業團的聖召,而他竟然又跟這位天 主教神父遇上了。他就是歐華路主教,主業團的監督。

歐華路主教對靈魂的熱愛是普世性的。他接待每一個相遇的人<sup>,</sup>並且 跟他們成為朋友。

#### 你對於歐蒙席還有其他印象嗎?

歐華路主教本人是非常有智慧的,他擁有多個博士學位(土木工程、 歷史和教會法)。

可是,他非常謙虛,總是遷就其他人。很多人也為他所經常散播的喜 樂與和平作證。

3月23日的清晨,他心臟病發。那名被召到場料理歐華路主教的主業 團成員及醫生,可以想像得到,他對歐華路主教的情況不太樂觀而且 表現得憂心重重。

當歐華路主教察覺到這點時,就拿他所穿的睡衣開玩笑,以求舒緩醫 生的緊張情緒,讓他重拾冷靜,展現笑顏。

## 馬德里舉行冊封歐華路主教真福大典

#### 大典由來自教宗方濟各的訊息啟幕

主業團的副監督 Fernando Ocariz 宣讀來自教宗方濟各的訊息,開啟 了這一場隆重的宣福典禮。教宗指出,真福歐華路以單純平凡的生活 教導眾人成聖的道路。教宗並指出,歐華路主教曾遍及全球,備嘗艱 辛,卻以愛主愛人之心從事福傳工作。凡浸潤於主愛中的人,必知如 何親愛近人。(全文詳 www.alvarodelportillo.org)

接著於中午12點24分,阿馬托樞機主教(Cardinal Amato)隆重宣稱 歐華路主教成為真福,這位新真福的面容即時呈現在眾信友面前。他 的慶節可於每年5月12日在宗座認定的教區慶祝。

另外一個關鍵的時刻,是由 Ureta Wilson 家人把歐華路主教的聖髑放 到祭台上。他們的兒子 Jose Ignacio,曾蒙歐華路主教的代禱,奇蹟 性地被治癒。

#### 來自全球的廣大信友參與大典

從世界各地來的 18 位樞機和 150 餘位主教,與來自 80 多個國家成千 上萬的教友,以實際的參與彰顯了這位新真福的普世性。



最靠近祭台的 200 個位子,安排給一些行動不便的人士,以及當初由 歐華路主教在非洲與拉丁美洲發起的社會福利推動計畫的代表。此外 還保留一些位子給家庭,及西班牙和國際的政府官員們。

這天一大早,1600 台巴士和接駁車將 30 多萬人從地鐵站送至面積 185,000 平方公尺的 Valdebebas 廣場。26 面大型螢幕,搭配音響設 備,持續播放歐華路主教生平的影片,陪伴眾人準備典禮的開始。場 內設有 13 間小聖堂與 80 個告解亭,藉著祈禱,或告解聖事,眾人為 此盛宴充分地準備自己的心靈。

#### 講道強調新真福對福音、教會和教宗的忠誠

阿馬托樞機主教在講道中強調新真福「以英勇的奮鬥」活出許多美德, 譬如他對「福音、教會和教宗訓導的忠貞。」樞機主教認為歐華路「逃 避任何形式的自我追求,因為他意在傳遞福音真理,而非己見。」此 外,「他為人處事的審慎和意向的正直,及尊重他人的聲譽和自由的 風範,亦是超人一等。」

阿馬托樞機主教接著説:「今天,歐華路真福邀請我們參與如此親切、 憐恤、溫和、良善又心謙的聖德。聖人們邀請我們將這股天主聖寵純 良的清風,灌輸到教會與社會的核心,讓大地煥然一新。」

在龐大川流不息的眾信友中,呈現的是特別虔敬之情,和由 200 人 組成(上一屆世界青年日)的合唱團歌聲陪伴的喜悦。1200 位神父在 Valdebebas 魚貫分送聖體。

在慶典的尾聲,主業團監督蔡浩偉主教除了對天主深表感恩外,也向 聖教會、教宗方濟各、前教宗本篤十六世、阿馬托樞機主教、馬德里 主教、合唱團、志工們、媒體工作者和所有幫忙這次列品真福典禮圓 滿完成的朋友們表達感謝之意,他們的協助使宣福大典,及各地舉行 的感恩祭典能夠順利舉行。

監督繼續説到:「舉揚歐華路主教至祭台的這份恩典,提醒我們需要 不斷更新成聖的普世召喚,也是梵二大公會議點燃世人心火的普世成 聖教導。」他也提到:「聖施禮華必定滿心歡心地看到他一直心所屬最



www.zenit.org (消息)

忠實的兒子成為繼承者,和所有信友的榜樣成為真福。」蔡浩偉主教 也懇請在場的每一位,特別為「因著信仰而受迫害的兄弟姊妹們,包 括在世界各地不同角落的殉道者們祈禱。」

#### 馬德里教區以馬德里市之子為傲

馬德里樞機主教 Antonio Maria Rouco 在接近尾聲時,希望特別指出 真福歐華路和馬德里市之間密切的關係。「除了歷史因素以外,歐華 路主教的一生及其著作銘記在馬德里教區信友的心中,也造就了深刻 的影響。我們可以經由許多在他鼓勵推動下完成的靈修培育,或社會 福利的創意計劃裡,看到他的足跡。」

最後,樞機主教 Rouco 説:「這位誕生在馬德里的真福,以一種很獨特的角度看來,他是屬於我們的,所以他從天堂賜給了我們特別的祝福。」「身為教會的教區,」樞機補充道,「我們感到非常驕傲,除了他赤膽忠誠地協助聖施禮華將主業團的訊息傳播到世界各地之外,以及他對梵蒂岡第二次大公會議所做的無比貢獻。」

典禮結束後,超過3500位的年輕志工們協助參與者順利地從 Valdebebas回到馬德里。在禮拜天,除了部分已返鄉的人外,其餘的 人更是共襄盛舉,參與由主業團監督蔡浩偉主教所主持的感恩彌撒。 www.opusdei.org.tw(監督)

### 監督的新加坡,韓國,台灣之行

蔡浩偉主教於上週對新加坡,台灣及韓國進行了一次短期的牧民之旅。主業團的 使徒工作在分別於 1982,1985以及 2009 年開始在此三地穩定開展。

2014年5月26日



新加坡:一千餘人參與了主業團 會員及友人在來福士城會議中心 舉行/的聚會。其中許多是來自 周邊的鄰國,包括來自馬來西 亞、印度尼西亞和越南等。

監督強調「我們該有一個像聖施 禮華一樣寬大的心胸,好能容納 來自不同國家的人。」

他提醒每個人,基督徒的生活包含著深切的喜樂和有時的痛苦,但這 些痛苦我們可以通過天主的恩寵來克服。他同時指出,主業團的核心 訊息是:「在你的生活中,不要刻意尋求的超凡經歷,最大的經歷就 是在日常工作隨時準備好承行主旨。」

監督訪問了新加坡總主教 William Goh, 宗座代表 Leopoldo Girelli 總 主教,馬六甲和柔佛教區主教 Paul Tan。他上一次對新加坡的訪問是 在 2008 年。

台灣:在台灣,監督首先拜訪了洪山川總主教,他也去了聖母顯靈堂 中誦念了玫瑰經,該堂內有一個聖施禮華的聖像。聖像於 2007 年開 始放在聖堂內,該教堂毗鄰於世界最高的建築之一的台灣 101 大廈。

大約 200 人參加了位於台灣首都舉行的與監督一起的聚會,參與者包括一些非天主教徒。在提問的人中,有一位擔任高中教師的母親,一 位正在計劃與一名非基督徒結婚的年輕人,一名感到自己可能有聖召 的學生,以及兩名希望能更好服務台灣教會的大學生。



蔡浩偉主教表示:「要求主增強我們的信德,使得我們不會變得沮喪。 讓我們充滿信心,從而在日常生活中能更努力地為自己周圍的人服 務,更愛他們,不論他們是不是天主教徒,都一視同仁。因我們都有 同一位父親,他愛我們至深。」

韓國:監督在韓國進行了為期兩天的訪問。他首先去到人口一百五十 萬的中部城市大田,會見了大田教區主教 Lazzaro Heung-sik。主業 會的使徒工作已經在該市開展了四年。

他亦拜訪了聖座駐韓國大使 Osvaldo Padilla 總主教,韓國上下正在為 教宗方濟各八月對該國的訪問進行各項準備。

在首爾,監督還會見了主業團的會員和他們的友人。在場者就家庭和 子女養育,信仰的培植,聖召,福傳以及教宗等不同的話題向監督提 出了問題。



監督強調:「請從你們的詞典中 刪除『不可能』這個詞,因為即使 客觀上可能有許多困難,但『為 信的人,一切都是可能的。』(馬 爾谷福音 9:23)」監督隨後還接見 了一些家庭和司鐸的代表。

## 歐華路主教宣福禮

## Beatification of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo



# Thanks to St. Josemaría for bringing me to the Catholic Faith

Through knowing the Catholic Faith I decided to become a Catholic. WL, Macau, October 22, 2014

#### Meeting Christ and Learning the Catholic Faith

My first encounter with Christ was when I was studying in a Christian primary school in Macau. I joined some Christian spiritual activities because of some difficulties, disappointments, and a feeling of being lost in life. By believing in Christ, I gathered enough courage and perseverance to move ahead daily.

During my pre-university studies, I happen to meet a person named Joseph, who is a member of Opus Dei. This is the start of my knowing about Opus Dei. It became the seed for me to journey into the Catholic Faith.



## With guidance from Opus Dei, I have decided to become a Catholic

I felt that in my previous faith as a Christian, it was not substantial enough, and felt some things were missing. I was fortunate to have contact with people of Opus Dei. In the year 2013, I became a Cooperator of Opus Dei in Macau. Through the guidance of Fr. Mandia, Joseph and Tony, I received a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith. For example, I learned that the church originated from the first disciples of Christ. Also, how to pray and most especially, the meaning of the Holy Eucharist. I learned about Confession and The Way of the Cross, too.

### www.josemariaescriva.info (Testimonies)

Moreover, I felt very at ease with the spiritual guidance I was receiving, and I resolved to become a Catholic. I am very thankful to the people of Opus Dei because I was baptized at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Macau in April 2014. I will follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ in trying to love people, having a spirit of sacrifice, and always be kindhearted. I can definitely say that to be a Catholic my life will be more wonderful, happy and meaningful.

# To sanctify oneself and help the family, relatives and friends to get closer to God

This is what I learned through the guidance of Opus Dei: that I can be united with Christ through sanctifying myself. In learning Catholic doctrine, it will bring my profession, family life, and the education of children in closer union with Christ. My aim is to glorify God, and do what Jesus wants of me. For example, that we should live in the way Jesus lived, such as being humble, to offer sacrifice to God, and to sanctify our work. In June 2009, I became a father. I experienced for the first time the love between a father and a child. Indirectly, I experienced the love of God for me.

Last, but not least, in order to be more effective for me to bring my relatives and friends towards God, I would need to go through more doctrine classes and recollections. We can also do apostolate with other people to spread the Gospel of the Lord, with the help of the people of Opus Dei, so as to let them know about God the Father.

#### (Translation)

### My Happy Personal Encounter with Opus Dei

By James TM Liao October 13, 2014



In September 2008, I organized an activity for the Taichung Diocese and paid a visit to the Sacred Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Luocuo. I had a brief chat with Fr. Lin Tiende, the parish priest who asked me if I had ever attended activities organized by Opus Dei. I said no and Fr. Lin told me that it may be good for me to get to know this group in the future. I had never attended an Opus Dei activity so I totally forgot that conversation.

But as I now type on my computer keyboard and search for any record of that brief conversation with Fr. Lin, I confirmed that I really did not think much of it.

In September 2009, a year after that parish activity, a number of typhoons hit the Philippines causing loss of lives and much damage to property. The Most Reverend Martin Yao-wen Su, the Bishop of Taichung, asked me to get in touch with a Chinese Filipino doctor to see if there was anything we could do to help. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that the doctor was my old friend Dr. Cisco Lim whom I had not seen in ten years. When I first met him, I was not yet a Catholic. I was overjoyed to learn that we now shared the same faith.

(Translation)

#### www.opusdei.org.tw (Testimonies)

In their concern to help their unfortunate countrymen, Dr. Lim and other Chinese Filipinos in Taiwan embarked on the St. Michael Project to gather donations for the typhoon victims. Among the initiators of the project was Fr. Derrick Barria Go, a priest of Opus Dei. The St. Michael Project brought me into frequent dealings with Dr. Lim and Fr. Derrick and to a better understanding of Opus Dei. Immersed in the various tasks for the disaster relief efforts, I had no time to recall that conversation I had with Fr. Lin in 2008.

In 2010, with our Philippine disaster relief efforts behind us, I invited Dr. Lim again to help organize an international volunteer activity in Africa. Fr. Derrick helped us raise funds from among his friends in Taipei, among them Robert Chang, a member of Opus Dei and the younger brother of my junior high school classmate. The reconnection with a friend whom I hadn't seen in ten years and the discovery of a donor who turned out to be the brother of a high school classmate formed part of a string of coincidences that made me think that indeed the world was small. Or were they all part of God's mysterious plan?

When the excitement over the volunteer activities had subsided, the conversation I had with Fr. Lin in the Luocuo Church returned to my memory. Indeed, everything is part of God's plan and there is a time for everything as Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes says. "That conversation may have been buried in the deep recesses of my memory, but it is linked to the answers I eventually found to the long-standing questions about my spiritual life".

Fr. Derrick started coming to Taichung every two weeks to befriend Catholics, hear confessions and to spread the universal call to sanctify ordinary work. Opus Dei stressed on having a unity of life through a personal encounter with God in one's interior life and personal apostolate, thus harmonizing the many spiritual and material realities of our daily lives. In our chats with him, Fr. Derrick encouraged us to do a daily examination of conscience and to develop spiritual discipline. The active, workaholic me discovered that this was the way to gradually arrive at an attitude of abandonment to God. I have also become a good friend of St. Josemaría, whom I think is pleased from his home in heaven.

How did I become friends with this saint? The first time we met, Fr. Derrick gave me a small book called "The Way", written by St. Josemaría. I politely accepted it but after reading through it, I found the words of this great saint concise and to the point, real pearls of wisdom. There is no beating around the bush. All the points are really an aid to meditation and self-examination. They enable us to integrate his spirit into our lives and discern what the Holy Spirit tells us. We learn how to find God in our lives.

#### (Translation)

www.opusdei.org.tw (News)

"The Way" awakened in me a great interest in St. Josemaría. In looking for more information about him, I came across some films showing him answer questions during big gatherings of people. His replies were short and pithy, striking my soul with a power which in Chinese Kung Fu could be described as "a fist blow to where it hurts." It felt like he was speaking to me face to face, like a friend or a brother giving me counsel, a mentor or a father guiding me.

One day, reading through a website of St. Josemaría, a "Job Seeker's Novena to St. Josemaría" appeared on my monitor. I was not really looking for a job but out of curiosity, I clicked on the link and found myself reading his words: "Work is a path to sanctity." This was just what I had been searching for --- a way to live out the ascetical life. It was about that time when I met Yufeng Wang, a long-standing church activities volunteer. She asked me to pray for the recovery of her husband's failing eyesight and for the conversion of her family. I came to the conclusion that spreading the Faith and praying for the needs of others were the duties of every Christian. So I did a novena to St. Josemaría for the needs of Mrs. Wang and added my own intentions. I invited Mrs. Wang to pray a novena too. After a few weeks, she told me that her husband had not yet fully recovered his evesight but that he had ceased to complain about her pro-active devotion to her Faith. On the outside, it was merely a case of Mrs. Wang's returning to the fervor of her church volunteer work. For me, it was the fruit of the conversation I had with Fr. Lin two years ago. I had learned more about Opus Dei, been appointed a cooperator, and now attend means of formation.

My path is strewn with graces from God. I gradually understood the role I play in the building up of Christ's Mystical Body. No. 32 of Lumen Gentium, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, states: "... If therefore in the Church everyone does not proceed by the same path, nevertheless all are called to sanctity and have received an equal privilege of faith through the justice of God. And if by the will of Christ some are made teachers, pastors and dispensers of mysteries on behalf of others, yet all share a true equality with regard to the dignity and to the activity common to all the faithful for the building up of the Body of Christ."

I thank God for leading me to Opus Dei which is like a light that guides my steps forward and straighten the path that lies ahead. Besides this deep gratitude, I end with a prayer to our Lady of Guadalupe that she intercede for the apostolate of Opus Dei among the Chinese and petition the omnipotent God that Opus Dei help more people become saints in their ordinary lives. www.zenit.org (News)

### Pope Francis' Letter on Beatification of Alvaro del Portillo

"This is the path of holiness that every Christian must follow: to let himself be loved by the Lord, to open his heart to His love"

Vatican City, September 30, 2014 (Zenit.org)

Here is a translation of the full text of a letter sent by Pope Francis to the prelate of Opus Dei, on the occasion of Saturday's beatification of Alvaro del Portillo (1914-1994).

The text was sent on June 26, feast of Saint Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

#### Dear Brother:

The beatification of the Servant of God Alvaro del Portillo, faithful and first collaborator of Saint Josemaría Escrivá at the head of Opus Dei, is a moment of special joy for all the faithful of that Prelature, as well as for you, who for so long were a witness of his love of God and of others, of his fidelity to the Church and to his vocation. I also wish to unite myself to your joy and to thank God who embellishes the face of the Church with the holiness of his children.

His beatification will take place in Madrid, the city in which he was born and in which he spent his childhood and youth, with an existence forged in the simplicity of family life, in the friendship and service of others, as when he went to neighbourhoods to help in the human and Christian formation of so many needy persons. And there, above all, the event took place that sealed definitively the direction of his life: his meeting with Saint Josemaría Escrivá, from whom he learned to fall in love with Christ more every day. Yes, to be enamoured of Christ. This is the path of holiness that every Christian must follow: to let himself be loved by the Lord, to open his heart to His love and allow Him to be the one who guides our lives.

I like to recall the short prayer that the Servant of God used to repeat frequently, especially in personal celebrations and anniversaries: "thank you, sorry, help me more!" They are words that bring us close to the reality of his interior life and his dealings with the Lord, and which can help us also to give a new impulse to our own Christian life.

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In the first place, thank you. It is the immediate and spontaneous reaction that the soul feels before God's goodness. It cannot be otherwise the

that the soul feels before God's goodness. It cannot be otherwise. He always precedes us. No matter how much effort we make, His love always comes before, touches and caresses us first, He arrives first. Alvaro del Portillo was conscious of the many gifts that God had given him, and he thanked God for that manifestation of his fatherly love. But he did not stay there: the recognition of the Lord's love awakened in his heart desires to follow Him with greater selflessness and generosity, and to live a life of humble service to others. Especially outstanding was his love of the Church, Bride of Christ, which he served with a heart stripped of worldly interest, far from discord, hospitable with all and always looking for the positive in others, for what unites, what builds. Never a complaint or criticism, as he learned from Saint Josemaría, he always responded with prayer, forgiveness, understanding and sincere charity.

**Sorry.** He often admitted that he saw himself before God with empty hands, incapable of responding to such generosity. However, the admission of human poverty is not the fruit of despair, but a confident abandonment in God who is Father. It is to open oneself to His mercy, to His love, which is capable of regenerating our life. A love that does not humiliate, or sink us in the abyss of guilt, but which embraces us, raises us from our prostration and makes us walk with more determination and joy. The Servant of God



#### www.zenit.org (News)

Alvaro knew the need we have of divine mercy and he dedicated much personal energy to encourage persons who were attempting to approach the Sacrament of Confession, Sacrament of joy. How important it is to feel the tenderness of God's love and to discover that there is still time to love.

Help me more. Yes, the Lord never abandons us, He is always at our side, He walks with us and every day awaits a new love from us. We will not be lacking in His grace, and with His help we can take his name to the whole world. Beating in the new Blessed's heart was the desire to take the Good News to all hearts. So he went to many countries fomenting projects of evangelization, without noticing the difficulties, moved by his love of God and of brothers. The first condition to proclaim Christ to them is to love them, because Christ already loves them first. We must come out of our egoisms and comfort and go to meet our brothers. The Lord awaits us there. We cannot keep the faith for ourselves; it is a gift that we have received to give and share with others.

Thank you, sorry, help me! Expressed in these words is the tension of an existence centered on God; of someone who has been touched by the greatest Love and lives totally of that Love; of someone who, though experiencing his human weaknesses and limitations, trusts in the Lord's mercy and wants all men, his brothers, to experience it also.

Dear brother, Blessed Alvaro del Portillo sends us a very clear message; he tells us to trust in the Lord, who is our brother, our friend who never disappoints us and who is always at our side. He encourages us not to be afraid to go against the current and to suffer for proclaiming the Gospel. Moreover, he teaches us that in the simplicity and ordinariness of our life we can find a sure path to holiness.

I ask all the faithful of the Prelature, please, priests and laymen, as well as all those that participate in its activities, to pray for me, while imparting to them the Apostolic Blessing.

May Jesus bless you and may the Holy Virgin take care of you,

Fraternally,

Franciscus

## Opus Dei bishop showed 'enormous faith,' biographer recalls

#### By Kevin Jones

New York City, N.Y., Jan 28, 2014 / 04:21 am (CNA/EWTN News). — The upcoming beatification of Opus Dei lead prelate Bishop Alvaro del Portillo brings to prominence a man of deep faith and love of God, according to his biographer.

"He was someone who reached out to all kinds of people. He would befriend the doormen in the Vatican. They'd come over and say hello to him. He was interested in everybody," Seton Hall University professor John Coverdale told CNA Jan. 24.

"There can't be too many people who take up interest in the doorman."

Bishop del Portillo, a native of Madrid, Spain, headed the personal prelature of Opus Dei from 1975 until his death in 1994. He will be beatified in Madrid on Sept. 27, with Cardinal Angelo Amato of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints presiding.



www.catholicnewsagency.com (News)

#### www.catholicnewsagency.com (News)

"He had confidence in God, confidence that Opus Dei was part of God's plan for the Church, and that he was called to put his whole life at the service of seeing that actually happen," Coverdale continued.

"That's exactly what he did. He worked very hard, even in the final days of his life as an old man and much exhausted."

Bishop del Portillo studied to be an engineer and received doctorates in philosophy, liberal arts and canon law.



He joined Opus Dei in 1935 and soon became a close collaborator of St. Josemaría Escrivá, who founded the organization dedicated to spiritual growth and discipleship among the Catholic laity. The organization teaches its members to use their work and their ordinary activities as a way to encounter God.

Coverdale, a tax law professor and member of Opus Dei since 1957, is the author of a history of the prelature. He is now working on a biography of Bishop del Portillo.

The professor said Bishop del Portillo's personality was "very different" from that of the "ebullient" and "high energy" St. Josemaría.

"Don Alvaro was a much quieter sort of person," he explained.

However, his life showed his "complete availability" to the Church. He served in various Vatican congregations and commissions. During the Second Vatican Council, he served as a secretary and a "peritus," or theological expert.

"He told one of his collaborators, who had been asked to take on a very onerous appointment in the Vatican, 'just always say yes'," Coverdale said.

The professor worked and studied in the Opus Dei headquarters for five to six years in the 1960s, alongside St. Josemaría Escrivá and at the time, the bishop was "very much a man in the background."

"He made no effort to stand out or have people pay attention. He was there to second whatever the founder was doing, and help him in that."

Coverdale was impressed that a man "of his enormous talent" would simply stand by to be there "in case he was needed."

He described the bishop's importance in Opus Dei as "extraordinary." In addition to being a long-time aide and the "closest collaborator" of the prelature's founder, Bishop del Portillo had a "very strong sense" of the spirit of the organization.

Upon St. Josemaría's death, he helped maintain the continuity of Opus Dei's spirit and practice, securing the organization's status as a prelature – a special structure under church law – and helping secure the beatification of St. Josemaría.

Coverdale suggested that the death of St. Josemaría was the bishop's "most dramatic" moment, due to his close friendship with the saint, with whom he lived and ate "every day for 30 years."

"He had enormous affection for him, and was probably the person most saddened and upset by St. Josemaría's death."

But rather than simply grieving, Bishop del Portillo "immediately took up the reins" and wrote Opus Dei members a 30-40 page letter recounting the founder's death.

"It must have been very hard to do, when, I am sure, he was in tears," Coverdale noted. "He knew he had to take care of the other people."

The biographer said he was also struck by "just how much" the man prayed.

#### www.catholicnewsagency.com (News)

"Not only did he celebrate Mass everyday and say the breviary and say the rosary and do an hour a day at least of mental prayer," the biographer recalled. "Many times if he was traveling by car, he said multiple decades of the rosary."

"There are all kinds of occasions when you see him simply returning to prayer as a way of solving issues and opening God's grace for Opus Dei and for the Church as a whole," Coverdale said.

Since the bishop's death in 1994, many people have turned to him in prayer.

In July 2013, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Bishop del Portillo. It involved the August 2003 healing of a Chilean newborn boy who suffered a 30-minute period of cardiac arrest and a major hemorrhage.

Although the newborn's medical team thought he had already died, his parents prayed for healing through the bishop's intercession. The baby's heart began to beat again and he went on to live a normal life.

Monsignor Flavio Capucci, the postulator in charge of Bishop del Portillo's cause for canonization, has said that he has received almost 12,000 signed reports from Catholics who believe they have received favors through his intercession.

The recognition of a second miracle is typically necessary for a blessed to become a saint.

Beatification events will include visits to Madrid's Almudena Cathedral and other places related to the bishop's life and the beginnings of Opus Dei. Related events will also be held in Rome.

The current Prelate of Opus Dei, Bishop Javier Echevarría, said the Vatican's Jan. 21 announcement of the beatification ceremony was a "moment of profound joy." He said Bishop del Portillo "loved and served the Church so much."

### Alvaro del Portillo, the "rock" of Opus Dei and the mission in Asia

#### 'by Nirmala Carvalho

The director of the Opus Dei Centre in Mumbai talks about the successor to Saint Josemaría Escrivá, founder of the personal prelature, who will be beatified in September. Del Portillo was a person naturally "faithful, first to Our Lord and then to the spirit of Opus Dei." During the Second Vatican Council, he played a fundamental role, which he continued with young people from all over the world.

Mumbai (AsiaNews) – "Asia was always very close to the heart of Msgr Alvaro". This was clear when the first members of the Opus Dei arrived in New Delhi in 1993. On that occasion, he asked the world "to pray for the beginning of the Prelature in this great subcontinent," said Mr Kevin de Souza, director of the Opus Dei Centre in Mumbai. Speaking to AsiaNews, he talked about Msgr Alvaro del Portillo, who will be beatified on 27 September in Madrid. Here is the interview.

## How relevant is the life and mission of the Blessed Alvaro today?

Alvaro has always been regarded as an icon of fidelity. Saint Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei, nicknamed him *saxum*, which means 'rock' in Latin.

At only 26 years of age, he was named secretary general of Opus Dei. He had to oversee the expansion of the apostolic activities of Opus Dei in Madrid and other Spanish cities whilst completing his engineering studies and earning a living. He did all these with a great sense of calm.

"He has left a very deep imprint," said Javier Echevarría, the current Bishop Prelate of the Opus Dei, after Alvaro's death.

"One of his essential features was a strong sense of filiation, accompanied naturally by an effort to be faithful, first to Our Lord and then to the spirit of Opus Dei, left to us by our founder. Bishop Alvaro incarnated to perfection all aspects of the spirituality of Opus Dei, making them flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone."

During his years in Rome, various popes, from Pius XII to John Paul II called upon him to carry out numerous tasks as a member or consultor of 13 entities within the Holy See.

He played an active role in the Second Vatican Council. John XXIII appointed him a consultor to the Sacred Congregation of the Council (1959-1966).

Before Vatican II, he was president of the Commission for the Laity. In the course of the Council (1962-65), he was secretary of the Commission on the Discipline of the Clergy and of the Christian People.



After the Council, Paul VI appointed him consultor to the post-conciliar Commission for Bishops and the regulation of dioceses (1966).

For many years, he was also a consultor for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

# Was Asia a continent close to the heart of the Blessed Alvaro?

Asia was very close to Bishop Alvaro's heart from the times he was studying for his civil engineering degree. Whilst the Spanish Civil War was going on, Alvaro thought he could use the time he had to study another language so that he could later go to a faraway country to start the apostolates of Opus Dei there. He chose to study Japanese.

Even though he did not go to Japan, many years later Bishop Alvaro as the prelate of Opus Dei gave a fresh impulse to it in Asian countries.

In 1987, he visited Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and the Philippines, among other countries.

Since 1976, he was looking for ways to start Opus Dei in India. In 1993, the first people of Opus Dei arrived in New Delhi. Bishop Alvaro wrote to the centres all over the world asking everyone to pray for the beginnings in this large subcontinent.

## How was he concerned and how did he care for young people?

A young Guatemalan man came to India in the 1960s searching for spirituality. He returned to his country dressed in saffron robes. On one of the flights he took, he happened to sit down next to a young Catholic priest. They had a warm conversation that could have lasted longer, except that the priest excused himself at some point saying he had to pray.

The lad did not exactly know what that meant, but it did strike him deeply. Many years later, he would say that that moment was pivotal in his returning to the Catholic faith.

As a matter of fact, he discovered his vocation for the Opus Dei as a married person and had the chance of meeting that Catholic priest again. It was Bishop Alvaro, the prelate of Opus Dei.

Bishop Alvaro's zeal for souls was universal. He had a great capacity to make friends with the people he met.

#### Do you have any other thoughts about Msgr. Alvaro?

Bishop Alvaro was a very intelligent person, holding several doctorates (in Civil Engineering, History and Canon Law).

Yet, he was very unassuming and put himself at the level of everyone. Many people testify to that *gaudium cum pace* - joy with peace - that he always spread.

On 23 March, in the early hours of the morning, he suffered a heart attack. The physician who was called in, someone from Opus Dei, was worried, as one might imagine, as he attended to Bishop Alvaro.

Noticing this, Bishop Alvaro tried to put him at ease by joking about the dressing gown he was wearing and in this way helped the doctor to smile and calm down.

www.zenit.org (News)

## Don Alvaro del Portillo Beatified in Madrid

## Tens of Thousands Celebrate Life of St. Josemaría Escrivá's Successor

## A message from Pope Francis opened the ceremony

The ceremony began with the Vicar General of Opus Dei, Fernando Ocariz reading a message sent by Pope Francis. The Holy Father pointed out that "Blessed Alvaro del Portillo teaches us that simplicity and ordinary life are a sure path to holiness", reminding everyone that Blessed Alvaro "went to many countries, fostering projects of evangelization without being inhibited by difficulties, moved only by his love for God and for his brothers and sisters. Whoever is very immersed in God knows how to be close to other people" (full text at: <u>www.alvarodelportillo.org</u>).

Immediately following the solemn act of beatification by Cardinal Amato at 12:24 an image of the new blessed was revealed to the faithful. His feast day will be celebrated on May 12 every year in the diocese to be determined by the Holy See.

Another key moment was the transfer of the relics of Alvaro del Portillo to the altar, borne by the Ureta Wilson family, whose son Jose Ignacio was miraculously cured thanks to the intercession of the new blessed.

## A massive and international participation

The universal nature of the new blessed was manifested by the presence of hundreds of thousands of faithful from more than 80 countries and especially the participation of 18 cardinals and more than 150 bishops from all over the world.



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Among those on the front row at the ceremony were more than 200 people with some form of disability or the other, as well as representatives of the many social initiatives promoted by the new blessed, particularly in Africa and in Latin America. There were also many families and some Spanish and international civil authorities.

From very early in the morning, 1,600 big buses and a bus shuttle service took the more than 300,000 people from the Metro stations to the 185,000 square meters of Valdebebas. They were thus able to wait for the start of the ceremony watching some audio-visual programs on 26 giant screens. They prepared themselves spiritually either by praying in the 13 chapels available or by receiving the sacrament of penance in one of the 80 confessionals spread throughout the area.

## The homily laid emphasis on his faithfulness to the Gospel, to the Church and to the Pope

In his homily Cardinal Amato illustrated some virtues which the new blessed "lived in a heroic manner", such as his "faithfulness to the Gospel, to the Church and to the Magisterium of the Pope". According to the cardinal, Alvaro del Portillo "fled from all kinds of self-seeking because he transmitted the truth of the Gospel and not his personal opinions". Among other things, "he stood out for the prudence and uprightness of intention in the way he valued events and persons. He also stood out through the respect he had for the honour and freedom of others".

Cardinal Amato continued: "Today Blessed Alvaro del Portillo invites us to an amiable, merciful, affable, meek and humble holiness. The saints invite us to put into the womb of the Church and of society the pure air of the grace of God which renews the face of the earth".

The huge turnout of the faithful was marked by piety and the joy of singing that was accompanied by the 200-voice choir of the last World Youth Day. 1,200 priests distributed communion in Valdebebas.

## Msgr. Echevarria: a special prayer for those who suffer persecution as a result of their faith

At the end of the celebration, Monsignor Javier Echevarria, Prelate of Opus Dei spoke some words of gratitude to God, to the Church and to Pope Francis, as well as to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, to Cardinal Amato and to the Archdiocese of Madrid, the choir, the volunteers and the media, all of who have made possible the ceremony that has been followed by many throughout the world.



The prelate continued: "the raising of Alvaro del Portillo to the altars reminds us anew of the universal call to holiness, proclaimed with great fervour by the Second Vatican Council". He also made reference to the "joy that St. Josemaría Escrivá would undoubtedly feel in seeing this most faithful son of his proposed as an intercessor and model for all the faithful".

Monsignor Echevarria asked those present to pray in a special way "for our brothers and sisters who suffer persecution for their faith, including martyrdom in different parts of the world".

## The Diocese of Madrid is proud of its son

In his closing remarks Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco wished to point out the bond that exists between Alvaro del Portillo and the city of Madrid. "Not only for historical reasons but also because of the influence which his life and writings have had on the hearts of so many faithful of this Archdiocese. His footprints are also felt through the spiritual and social good done by the very many initiatives that owe their inspiration to him".

In conclusion, Cardinal Rouco said "Blessed del Portillo, who was born here in Madrid, is ours in a unique way and so sends us special blessings from heaven". "As a diocesan Church" he added, "we are very proud of the faithful help he lent to St. Josemaría in spreading the message of Opus Dei throughout the world and for the contributions he made to the Second Vatican Council".

At the end of the ceremony, more than 3,500 young volunteers helped participants to leave Valdebebas on their way back to Madrid. While some returned to their places of origin, others came back on Sunday for the traditional Mass of Thanksgiving which was presided over by Bishop Javier Echevarria, the prelate of Opus Dei.

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## Prelate's Trip to Singapore, Taiwan and Korea

Bishop Javier Echevarría made a brief pastoral trip to Singapore, Taiwan and Korea. Opus Dei's apostolic work began there in a stable way in 1982, 1985 and 2009, respectively.

May 27, 2014



**Singapore:** Over a thousand people took part in the get-together with faithful of Opus Dei and friends in Raffles City Convention Center.

Many people from neighboring countries also were present, including from Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. The Prelate insisted that "we need a bigger heart, like Saint Josemaría's, so that people from all countries fit there."

He reminded everyone that Christian life is a mixture of deep joys and moments of sorrow, which we can overcome with God's grace. He also pointed to the heart of Opus Dei's message: "Don't seek out extraordinary adventures in your lives. The greatest adventure is being ready to follow God's will in your daily life."

The Prelate visited Archbishop William Goh of Singapore, the apostolic nuncio Archbishop Leopoldo Girellli, and Bishop Paul Tan of Melaka-Johor. His last visit to the country was in 2008.

**Taiwan:** In Taiwan, the Prelate first went to see Archbishop John Hung Shan-chuan. He also prayed the rosary in the church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, where an image of Saint Josemaría is venerated. The painting was installed in 2007 in the church located next to the famous Taipei Tower 101, one of the tallest buildings in the world.

About two hundred people attended the get-together with the Prelate in Taiwan's capital, including some non-Catholics. Those asking questions included a mother who teaches in a high school, a young man who plans to marry a non-Christian, a student who senses she may have a vocation, and two university students who want to serve the Church better in Taiwan.

(Translation)



"Ask God," Bishop Echevarría said, "to increase our faith, so that we don't become discouraged and we are filled with confidence, and so that we struggle to love and serve those around us in our daily life, without making exceptions. Although our neighbors and colleagues at work may not be Catholics, we are all children of the same Father, who loves us madly."

**Korea:** The Prelate's trip to Korea, where he spent two days, began with a visit to Bishop Lazzaro Heung-sik of Daejon, a city located in the center of the country and with a million and a half people, where the apostolic work of Opus Dei began four years ago.

He also visited the apostolic nuncio of Korea, Archbishop Osvaldo Padilla. At present, the country is preparing for the visit of Pope Francis, who will travel to Korea next August.



Also in Seoul, the Prelate met with faithful of Opus Dei and their friends. Those attending asked, among other topics, about the family and raising children, Christian formation, vocation, apostolate, and the Holy Father.

He insisted: "You have to erase from your vocabulary the word 'impossible,' because although there may be objective difficulties,

"with faith everything is possible." Afterwards the Prelate met with some families and a group of priests.