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I wish to honour a great priest

Andrew Gicharu, is planning to attend the beatification of don Alvaro del Portillo from Nairobi. He has a disability which he suffered after an accident while playing rugby.

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I have had a disability for the last 20 years. In 1993, when I was studying Philosophy and History in the University of Nairobi, I had an accident playing rugby and I damaged my spinal cord. Now I can

hardly move. From then on, for half of my life, I have lived in a wheel chair and with somebody who is with me the whole day. My family also helps me a lot.

I am a Co-operator of Opus Dei and prayer has been a great source of strength to cope with my disability and in the moments of discouragement. I will attend the beatification of Don Alvaro as part of a community of Catholics who have come together to honour a great priest. It will be my first time to go to a beatification. I hope that the ceremony will be a celebration of the life and work of Don Alvaro: a day full of joy and prayer.

The trip will be an opportunity to know the great city of Madrid and to visit the Bernabeu, the stadium of a great club. After that we will visit Lourdes and Rome. I am looking

forward to that as well, especially to seeing the Pope.

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