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# **Pope Declares Alvaro del Portillo "Venerable"**

On June 28, Benedict XVI signed a decree that recognizes the "heroic virtues" of Alvaro del Portillo, the first successor of St. Josemaría Escrivá.

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This is an important step in his beatification process. It means that Benedict XVI recognizes that "Don Alvaro" exemplified heroic Christian virtues in his life.

The Vatican is also studying a documented miracle attributed to the intercession of Alvaro del Portillo. If approved by experts, theologians and of course the Pope, his beatification could follow.

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