

opusdei.org

New Biography of Alvaro del Portillo

John F. Coverdale, author of "Saxum: The Life of Alvaro del Portillo," was interviewed on EWTN's program "Bookmark." Watch the full interview [here](#).

09/05/2014

This new biography, "Saxum: The Life of Alvaro del Portillo," was written in anticipation of Bishop del Portillo's beatification on September 27 in Madrid.

The author, John F. Coverdale, worked in Rome for seven years alongside Saint Josemaria and Alvaro del Portillo. A historian and law professor, he has also written biographies of Saint Josemaria and of Father Joseph Muzquiz, who began Opus Dei's apostolic work in the U.S.

Saxum (the Latin word means rock) is the nickname that Saint Josemaria gave to Alvaro del Portillo. Also known affectionately as "Don Alvaro," he was for many years the founder's closest associate as well as his successor and the first Prelate of Opus Dei after it became a personal prelature.

To download a free chapter of the book, visit the author's Website (link to <https://johnfcoverdale.com/>).

The entire EWTN interview is available below:

pdf | document generated
automatically from [https://
dev.opusdei.org/en-ca/article/new-
biography-of-alvaro-del-portillo-2/](https://dev.opusdei.org/en-ca/article/new-biography-of-alvaro-del-portillo-2/)
(08/05/2025)