

The Servants of God

Tomás and Paquita Alvira

Tomás Alvira (Zaragoza-Spain, 1906 - Madrid-Spain, 1992) Paquita Domínguez (Borau-Huesca-Spain, 1912 - Madrid-Spain, 1994)



Educating Children beyond the home

In one of his pastoral letters the then Prelate of Opus Dei, Monsignor Javier Echevarría, said "I never tire of reminding you to invite fathers and mothers to the club activities and to collaborate in the running of the schools, (...) generously contributing their time, their material help and their initiatives to the splendid work of preparing exemplary citizens and good Christians, in this extension of the home which the schools and youth clubs make up".¹ In these words the Prelate of Opus Dei summed up very well an initiative of Saint Josemaría to which Paquita and Tomás dedicated a great part of their lives. The point was to encourage parents to bring the wealth of their family spirit to other particularly important educational fields by creating and setting up schools and youth clubs. In this way, and through these extensions of the home, the overall, human and Christian formation of the youth is easier and more effective and prepares them to commit themselves better to the progress of society.

When St. Josemaría suggested setting up schools with these ideals, Tomás took the task upon himself and was part of the small group that founded "Fomento de Centros de Enseñanza". Someone who witnessed his work in these schools writes: "Tomás was a great teacher, a true reference point and loved by all the teachers. His younger colleagues warmed to his cordiality and with the consistency of his personal life he convinced them that to educate one has to love the students, value their positive aspects and win their trust. He was convinced that parents are the first educators, they have the right and the duty to educate their children, and he paid the greatest attention to them so that the family could identify with the educational plan of the Centre. Paquita accompanied him to the functions which required her presence, though always with great discretion, yet this didn't hide her personal qualities. She showed her affection and refinement so naturally that she made us feel like one more family member. She always radiated peace and joy, even under circumstances that were not very encouraging".²

Tomás and Paquita also helped to develop the first youth club started in Madrid. "The married couple of Tomás and Paquita was key to setting up the first youth club. With the experience of their own home and their educational backgrounds, they saw through an idea that has now been transplanted to the five continents; more than youth associations, a second home where many families have found an adequate complement for the formation of their children. Tomás, always united to Paquita, was the lessee of the property, the first president of the Promoter Group... A fantastic example of a pioneer family, which was always easy to approach and ready to assist".³

1. Mons. Javier Echevarría, Pastoral Letter I-IV-2015.
2. Testimony of Jeronimo Gay.
3. Jara Club Magazine.



Tomás with his first three children Jose María Teresa and Rafael in August 1944.

Answers to prayers

I have to thank the Alviras for helping me attain a favour from heaven. My daughter, who had been married for nine years and had no children, became pregnant. She is now a mother of a boy and, after fifteen months, a girl. Everyone in our family is very happy, thanks to the intercession of Paquita and Tomás.

A.

In October 2016 I was diagnosed with an 8 cm cyst on my left ovary that looked very bad and I was told that I could become sterile. Given the size of the cyst and its evolution, they decided to operate on me and give me a biopsy. As soon as I heard the bad news, I began to pray the prayer-card to the Alviras daily, and finally the operation was great and the results of the biopsy as well. So I can have children without any problem, if God gives them to us.

After several months of treatment I managed to recover and everything seemed fine. My husband and I were wishing to be parents, but [a child] didn't arrive and we decided to start praying a prayer-card daily to the Alviras. On May 7, the anniversary of Tomás Alviras' death. We learned that we were going to be parents. It's a great gift and we're sure it's been a huge favor from Paquita and Tomás. We continue to entrust them with the task of making everything go well.

A.G.R.

Since the beginning of our marriage, we have had very serious economic complications. It's been 11 years but we can't overcome them. There are days when we don't have enough to eat. I don't remember how I found out about the life of Paquita and Tomás. One night my husband and I had not had dinner, because the last thing we had given to the children. I said to them: "Please, don't leave us without eating". The next day my in-laws called to ask if they could come to our house for lunch and what was our surprise when they showed up with grocery bags full of food. Definitely Tomás and Paquita didn't forget us. I can't say that our economic difficulties went over after that, but I keep asking for their intercession and they haven't let us down. We are enormously grateful for their intercession.

J.C.

Prayer for private devotion

God our Father, who filled your servants Paquita and Tomás with graces so that they could bring a truly Christian spirit to their married life and the fulfilment of their professional and social obligations, send us your powerful Love so that we may spread to those around us the message of the greatness of fidelity and holiness in marriage. Deign to glorify your servants Paquita and Tomás and, through their intercession, grant me the favour that I ask of you... (here make your petition). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

Those who obtain favours through the intercession of the Alviras are asked to notify the Opus Dei Prelature, Office for the Causes of Saints in East Africa:
Email: info.ke@opusdei.org

Publications

1. Our Lives in His Hands: An Ordinary Couple's Path to Holiness, Olga Marlin, Scepter 2018.
2. The first Supernumeraries, Studia et Documenta, vol. 12 – 2018, Luis Cano (pp. 251-302).

How can I help?

If you wish to make a donation to support the expenses of the canonization cause:

Office of the Causes of Saints of the Prelature of Opus Dei in East Africa. Donations may be made by cheque, bank transfer or Mpesa.

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