

The Servants of God

Tomás and Paquita Alvira

Tomás Alvira (Saragossa, 1906–Madrid, 1992) & Paquita Dominguez (Borau–Huesca, 1912–Madrid, 1994)



The Family: a place of joy

The first Christians well understood the essence of the Gospel message and consequently that joy is inseparable from holiness. The Christian life is one endless feast day, wrote Clement of Alexandria in the 2nd Century.

In this sense, St. Josemaría lived and taught others to live the struggle for sanctity joyfully. Among his many invitations in this regard is his constant affirmation that Christian homes should always be bright and cheerful.



They celebrated the golden jubilee of their marriage in 1989.

Paquita and Tomas were able to reflect this spirit faithfully. A niece, who spent some time in the summer with them, recalls: “Their house was always filled with joy. It was a home where one felt the presence of God. Without spending much, they celebrated everything: some pickles and a few chips were enough to have a good time.”¹ And the daughter of the mayor of the village where they used to go on holiday wrote:

“Every year we waited for them enthusiastically, because they filled the village... not only because they were a large family, but because of their joy, friendliness, goodness, kindness, and all their other virtues that made life so pleasant for all of us who had anything to do with them.”²

A neighbour remembers of Paquita: “She was always cheerful and smiling and she transmitted that sense of happiness, not only in her home, but also to my family and to the other neighbours”.³ Another of her friends can’t forget how she “radiated peace and joy with her words, gestures and smile. How pleasant it was to be with her!”⁴

About Tomás, a good friend writes: “He knew how to spread peace and happiness around, not only amongst his family, but among his friends, colleagues and acquaintances in the same way.”⁵ And one of his former students says that “his joy was contagious, I would even say radiant. After talking to him we always came away feeling good”.⁶

Joy and good humour were always present in their lives, even in the midst of difficulties or illnesses. After Tomás died, Paquita wrote to one of her children: “The certainty that he is in Heaven means we have to say: Thank you, my God! We want what you want and will continue being happy always”.⁷

As their children and those who dealt with them testify, the union that Paquita and Tomás had with God, through the spirit they learned from St. Josemaría in Opus Dei, made of their family life one endless feast day.

1. Testimony of Maribel Calvo Dominguez. 2. Testimony of Domi Atance Oter. 3. Testimony of Pilar Almendral Lucas. 4. Testimony of Rosario Arenillas Valderrábano. 5. Testimony of Angel Santos Ruiz. 6. Testimony of Mercedes Almendral Lucas. 7. Letter Madrid 18 December 1992.

Answers to prayers

I knew from my sister that my father was getting involved in dishonest election campaigns. Surfing the Opus Dei website, I found the prayer to Tomás and Paquita. I decided to go to their intercession so that my father would be freed from the temptation of corruption.

Very soon they helped with that. After a fraternal correction, my father swore never to support dishonest causes. Later the situation was properly fixed. All that was resolved thanks to his praying to the Alviras.

A.E.

Almost four years ago, I was a little lost and had just come out of a relationship that I wasn't sure was good for me. When I found myself quite confused and after having asked my friends for advice, they advised me to go to the Alviras.

At first I found it a little disconcerting, perhaps because of my lack of faith. I decided to place the prayer-card on my bedside table, so as not to forget to pray the prayer-card every day for nine days. Without having completed the period of time, on the fifth day I began to go out with the girl that, God willing, I will marry next year.

L.M.

For many years I have lived with a daily back pain. I had become used to it. However, in a matter of a few days I suddenly began to feel discomfort in my hands and ankles. I needed to take painkillers for several weeks.

One night when I was in pain, I asked the Alviras for help, praying the prayer card for private devotion. The next day, I noticed that the pain had almost disappeared, including the usual back pain. Since then I have not used analgesics and seven months have now passed.

A.

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 Office for the Causes of Saints, Opus Dei Prelature in Britain: Email: ocs.uk@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).

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