

PAQUITA AND TOMÁS ALVIRA

The educational impact of poverty

"My parents lived out Christian sobriety with a keen awareness of its formative power," recalls one of their daughters. They sought to instil it in their children through their example. "I will never forget a comment my father made to me one day when I gave him a text to read in which I spoke about the impact of the spirit of Opus Dei on our family life. He immediately pointed out that I had omitted a very important point: the virtue of poverty. In his view, the absence of the practice of this virtue in Christian families - perhaps almost imperceptibly won over by consumer society and prevailing materialism - largely explained why God's call to total self-giving (whether in celibacy or in marriage) often failed to take root. That remark stayed with me."

Their poverty was a true spirit of detachment, far removed from destitution and a disregard for material possessions. They were elegant, with a keen sense of dignity. "I would dare to say that the virtue of poverty was one of the more significant points, both because of the intrinsic difficulty of teaching it and because of the simplicity and clarity with which they lived it."

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They did not boast about it, hide it, or turn it into something negative.

On the contrary, they helped us to see the advantages of sobriety, of knowing how to value and look after material goods, and of thinking about the needs of others. One small example, among many others, can be seen in the letter my mother wrote to me during my first stay in Paris, where Tere was already living and where I had gone, at the age of fifteen, to improve my French: 'Let us talk now about finances, María Isabel, since I see that you are worried about shopping. There is no need to bring anything expensive; at most a very small token will do. I know there are marvels in Paris, but one has to know how to forget them because everything is very expensive. On the other hand, we would like you to offer a nice gesture for the Director of the Residence, for her personally or for the house - I don't know, whatever Tere suggests - and something else for Tere, whatever she needs at the moment'.

They neither aspired to get rich nor did they feel a sense of deprivation or long for greater financial means. "Since money was not a priority, it was not a frequent topic of conversation at home either. We were clear that it should not be wasted and that it was necessary to earn it in order to live". "From time to time Paquita would remind us of the effort it took my father to earn it."



FAVOURS

A BRAVE MAN

When I was 28, I was feeling very disheartened because I had been dating and none of them wanted a commitment or a long-term relationship. Following my mother's advice, I began to ask for the intercession of Tomás Alvira to help me find a brave man like him. A few months later, I met my husband: a determined man who, from day one, sought a real commitment. Today we are parents to a beautiful baby and I will always be grateful.

MJR (Costa Rica, 2026)

A JOB AT MY AGE

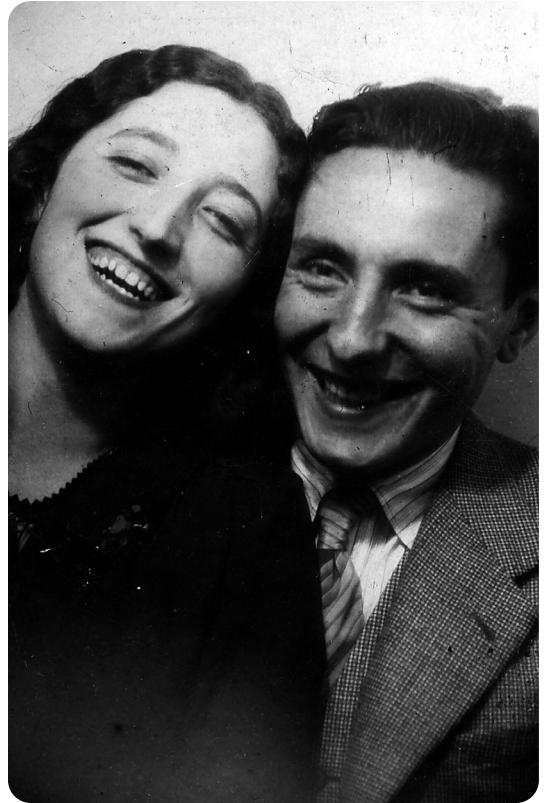
In March 2024, I left the company where I worked. It was a risky decision with five children. A few months later, I had to leave the new company and began to worry about my situation, as I had been without an income for several months. I had no job, but I kept trying to get projects off the ground, whilst at the same time I began praying novenas to the entire Heavenly Court... but with little success. The months went by, and my 24-year-old son decided to get married in December. I continued working on a new project with some investors who never actually invested. From September, I stepped up my job search. I never stopped praying, searching job portals, LinkedIn, reading news on property websites, sending my CV to companies in my sector, attending conferences... I never stopped doing what I felt was my duty.

By the end of 2025, another joy, another blessing from God - we had become grandparents! I decided to start a novena to Paquita and Tomás Alvira and leave everything in their hands. Last week, on a day of utter despondency, I was racking my brains and nothing came to mind, so I thought the only thing I could do was pray. I picked up the prayer card again and just as I was starting, the phone rang - I'd been hired: I start next Monday! I hope we'll soon see them on the altars.

SPC (Spain, 2026)

News of the Cause

The Cause of the Alvira couple is in its Roman phase.



PRAYER

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

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