

# Paquita and Tomás Alvira

Newsletter of the  
Office for the Causes of Saints  
Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain  
(Year 2024) No 7

## NEWS OF THE CAUSES

The Congregation for Causes of Saints has declared the validity of the two diocesan processes and the preparation of the respective *Positiones* has commenced.



## THE DIVINE MADNESS OF THE EUCHARIST

Since the Eucharist is the source of unity in the Church, this Most Blessed Sacrament should also be seen as the source of unity in the family, which is the domestic church. When we look at the strong family unity that Paquita and Tomás created, we can see the effect that **their love for the Sacrament of the Eucharist had in it.**

One of their daughters recalls: “The Holy Mass was the most important event of their day and their lives. They planned things every day, such as when to get up, how to carry out their many duties or trips they had to make, in such a way that they always made sure they were able to attend Mass. Something similar happened with **their daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament** which they never omitted. They transmitted these devotions to us so naturally when we were young, that we thought the visit was a custom practised by Christians everywhere. Towards the end of their lives, when they were old and sick, they only stopped going to Mass when illness prevented it. And on those occasions, they were very grateful to welcome our Lord at home and receive Communion. They made sure the house was clean as well as themselves, externally and internally”.<sup>1</sup>

Another daughter said: “One day my dad came home late from work. **He was always happy when he arrived home.** However, that day he looked distressed, and told us why. Something happened to him, that had not occurred for many years: due to a series of mishaps and unforeseen events, he missed attending Mass that working day. His genuine sorrow – I was a teenager at the time – deeply impressed me.”<sup>2</sup>

In the summer of 1993, Paquita suffered a stroke that left her paralyzed and unable to move on her own, but **she never stopped going to Mass**, despite the effort she had to make. One of her daughters recalls: “I was impressed when one Thursday after Mass she said to me: ‘Let’s say the *Adoro Te devote*’<sup>3</sup>. When I started looking for it in the Missal, she said: ‘Don’t you know it by heart? I pray it many times a day as an act of reparation’. And she knelt down with great devotion.”<sup>4</sup>

“During the final stages of my father’s illness, when his body barely responded, he would sometimes ask ‘what day is it today?’ When I told him it was Thursday, he would comment “Ah! Thursday, the Eucharist!” It was actually **on a Thursday when he gave up his soul to God**”,<sup>5</sup> adds one of his sons.

<sup>1</sup> Testimony of Nieves Alvira

<sup>2</sup> Testimony of Maria Isabel Alvira

<sup>3</sup> Liturgical hymn dedicated to the Holy Eucharist

<sup>4</sup> Testimony of M. Teresa Alvira

<sup>5</sup> Testimony of Tomás Alvira



### 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](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org)

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## FAVOURS

During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown my father was very ill. He lost his memory, had hallucinations, was unable to do anything on his own; he had to use a wheelchair and be helped with his hygiene; he lost 15 kg. We thought that he would not live much longer. We showed him all the love we could, providing home care and doctors' visits. We did everything we could, humanly and supernaturally speaking, entrusting his health to the Alvira couple. After 48 hours of having their prayer card at home, my father began to improve. He has been well for a number of months now, of course with some limitations. He has recovered his memory completely and does not need the wheelchair and the cane. He is 85 years old. My mother and I think that Tomás' and Paquita's help had a lot to do with this sudden change. We continue to pray to them. Thank you very much.

**M.A. (Spain)**

In November 2019, due to the economic situation of the country, we had to make a decision regarding our four children's schooling: whether to apply for a scholarship in their present school or to look for another school that we could afford and was inspired by the Christian and human values we wanted for our children.

A friend of mine suggested that I could entrust this matter to **Paquita and Tomas**, and so I did it every day. During the thanksgiving after Holy Mass, I prayed through their intercession for what would be best for my children.

We submitted the Forms needed to apply for a scholarship in their present school, and began to look for other schools. There was a school that I had not thought about because it was difficult to get admission to. It has a very nice family atmosphere, it is Catholic, it gives very good human formation and it is very close to our home. However, the waiting lists are long. In the end I made up my mind, filled in the Forms, attached the letters of introduction and handed them in after Mass and after using the prayer card once again. An hour and a half later, I received a call saying **that there was a vacancy** for Juana, my eldest daughter. With immense joy, I accepted. I could not stop thanking God for it.

When we were interviewed by the headmaster of the school, we were still excited. He then told us: "It's funny, let me show you the Excel file so you can see the situation. For the year 2020 I have 350 applications for admission, with waiting lists of 15 or 20 students per year, but in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year – my eldest daughter's year – there is no application, it is blank and there are two vacancies".

She sat for the entrance exams, and after a few days we were welcomed to the school. She is the only student admitted to that year and she is very happy!

**C.M. (Argentina)**