

God created man **out of love and in order that he also would love**. That is why it has been seen in a thousand ways throughout history that human life's most essential aspect is to learn how to love. As St. Josemaría wrote: *My God, I love you, but...oh teach me to love! (The Way, 423)*

Certainly, the main task of anyone who has the duty to train others is to allow the Holy Spirit to use us as his instrument in the task of **teaching people how to love others**. The best legacy that Tomás and Paquita left those they met and those closest to them, first of all their children, was precisely this: they gave them the means which would help them to learn how to love.

Above all, they did it with their attractive example, because it was very obvious that **they knew how to love**. One of Tomás' colleagues at work said about him: *The secret to doing anything entrusted to me consists in "loving intensely". This was the expression Tomás used when talking to those who were given a task, and he himself "loved intensely" the task he had at hand. He applied this idea to everything he did.*
(Testimony: Antonio Garcia).

The Servants of God

Paquita and Tomás Alvira

Teaching how to Love

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Another colleague said: *His way of loving was very obvious. He treated each person as if they were the most important person he was meeting. He centred his attention on that person as if he had nothing else to do, as if at that moment that was the only person who mattered to him; he looked at him with a lot of attention, listened to him, valued him, respected him.*

(Testimony: Maria del
Carmen Solance)

A friend of Paquita writes: *I remember her as **an extraordinarily good friend**: it's not easy to find such friends. You felt loved by Paquita. She treated everyone with the same love: all of us felt immediately that we were members of the family. She was interested in everyone; I was impressed by how she asked about other people's children – you could see that they mattered to her – especially knowing that she had many children!*

(Testimony: Carmen
Valdovinos).

As well as the *image* of the example they gave, they added as a *caption* their constant effort to explain to everyone that the main subject one has to learn in life is precisely this: to learn how to love. *Undoubtedly*, writes one of their sons, *the first thing that should be said about my parents is that they made present to us with their whole life, with every one of their actions, what is true love all about, that is **God's love for us and our love for him**. The love my parents lived and transmitted to others was not a doubtful or a boastful one, it did not need interpretation: it was obvious. This was the essential gift that they transmitted to us.*

(Rafael Alvira, Testimony).

"Teaching how to love" is the title Tomás chose for a short but rich piece of writing he published in a booklet. It portrays very well what was one of the dominant passions of his soul and of Paquita's soul. They were convinced that **the success of human life is rooted in love** and, as love is diffusive by nature, their determination to teach others how to love is the best proof that they themselves learned to love God fully.



FAVOURS

A married couple who knows how to help other married couples

I would like to thank the Alvira couple for helping me to find the solution for something that worried me. It began some years ago and became a serious and worrisome problem for my daughter and her husband. After being married for more than 20 years and having had some children, they started having disagreements to the point that **they seriously thought about separating**. I began to ask God through the intercession of the Alvira couple that the matter be solved. I prayed with faith and insistence. I was greatly surprised and grateful when **only after a few months everything changed**, so much that, a year later, their relationship is not only excellent but of great help to their children.

M.P. (Spain)

After a cancer and a spinal cord graft

Augustine, a 20-year-old young man and a classmate of my daughter Anne, had a malign tumour in the brain, that was treated with chemotherapy. One of the side effects of the treatment was marrow aplasia, that left the spinal cord badly depleted and not generating blood cells. A **spinal cord graft** seemed to be the last possible operation. Unfortunately, the first donor backed down, thus postponing the procedure for a month, during which he got leukaemia. Augustine had to undergo more chemotherapy. He was very weak and exhausted due to so much suffering and he asked to stop the treatment. The operation finally took place and two weeks later **he is perfectly alright**. The deadline to know whether the graft was successful has already passed, after constant prayer to Tomas and Paquita. No sooner had I asked for their intercession than I was certain I would be heard, and the novena continued everyday with great peace.

V.D (France)

News of the Cause

The text of the *Positio* is being finalised before being presented to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. It deals with the life, virtues and reputation for holiness of the Alvira couple.

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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ALVIRA

More information is available at www.matrimonioalvira.org

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.

