

PAQUITA
AND
TOMÁS ALVIRA

Loving God at work

The vocation to sanctify our ordinary life is at the heart of Opus Dei's message, and it involves putting all the natural and supernatural love we can into our lives. Love always strives to grow towards perfection, and that takes commitment.

St. Josemaría used to say that for God's children in Opus Dei, work is a **chronic, progressive, incurable** illness. Tomás Alvira showed symptoms of this "illness" when, at 70 years old, he set up the Fomento Teacher Training School and began to direct it.

It was seldom that anyone saw Paquita Alvira idle. Towards the end of her life, when she was very restricted by sickness, she said to one of her daughters, 'Everyone in Opus Dei has to work, but I can't do anything. How can I fix this problem? I want to die as a faithful woman in Opus Dei.' And she certainly did.



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The point of all this is not so much working a lot, but expressing love for God through work. That means loving the work itself and paying attention to the way it is done. Tomás' personal diary, close to the date of his death, says in shaky handwriting: 'Offer up illness and tiredness. **Work completed.** Order.' In a lecture he explained what he was trying to live: 'Something that parents cannot forget if they really feel the responsibility of bringing their children up well, is to help them love work.'

Paquita, at 23, was the head of a state school, and her colleagues looked up to her for her professional competence. Shortly after her marriage, she left that job to devote herself to her home. She once wrote, 'Doing the housework in a spirit of service, with love for the details and trying to live in God's presence, gives me the opportunity to practise all the Christian virtues. The professional aspect of my work as a mother and housewife has also meant I have had to improve my training, so as to take care of the home with greater human perfection, without falling into routine.'

FAVOURS

INTERCESSION FOR MARRIED COUPLES

During the five weeks of a process of accompaniment as a lawyer, I prayed the prayer card to the Alvira couple every day for a couple who wanted to get divorced. In the end they decided to stay together and work at their marriage. Now I have the Alviras as intercessors for the problems of couples who come to me.

J. T. (Spain).

THE GIFT OF A DAUGHTER

We had been married for four years and had not yet been able to have children. We always prayed for the gift of a child, through novenas, but we received no answer. In February 2020, after attending a retreat, I had a great desire to adopt a child. My husband came to pick me up and I told him about it on the way home.

When we got home we decided to pray one last novena, this time instead of asking God to help us conceive and have a child, we opened ourselves to Him and asked for a child in any way that was best. We chose the novena to the Alvira family because we loved their story.

Shortly afterwards I became pregnant and, in November, our daughter Elisa was born. It was a miracle in every way and a true gift from God.

E.M. (Kenya).

NEWS OF THE CAUSE

The *Positio* on the life, virtues and reputation for sanctity of the Alvira couple, is currently being finalised. It will then be submitted to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

*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
www.matrimonioalvira.org*



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.

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