

Paquita & Tomás Alvira

Newsletter of the Office for the Causes of Saints | Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain

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Our Lady in everything
and for everything

Love for the Our Lady accompanied Paquita and Tomas throughout their lives. In the middle of the civil war, Tomas managed to escape religious persecution by crossing the Pyrenees with St Josemaría. When he arrived in Saragossa in a deplorable physical state and with his clothes in tatters, he wanted to return home, where his family was waiting for him, but only after first going to the Basilica of Pilar to give thanks to Our Lady.

On the occasion of their wedding, Tomas gave Paquita a copy of Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus with the dedication: "May the Mother of Jesus be your guide and may the path that we take together today be smooth." The nine children were given 'Maria' as their first or second name. Tomas and Paquita had a special devotion to Our Lady of Pilar. Her statue, one of their daughters says, always presided over their living room. "All of us have sheltered under her mantle, as is traditional in Aragon".



The children testify to the fervour with which they recited the Rosary daily as a family, without it ever being imposed on them. One daughter recalls how one day she got up to leave because she did not feel like praying. "My father was sitting by the door. As I was leaving, he said to me in a low voice, with a smile both loving and sad: 'What a pity, my daughter, that you don't love Our Lady!' He didn't try to stop me, and, in fact, I didn't come back. He didn't scold me in any way whatsoever, nor did he raise the matter again. But the event was very important and made deep impression on me".

A pupil at the Infant Maria Teresa School at which Tomas was headmaster recalls: "Although it wasn't compulsory to say the Rosary, we did recite it, but extremely fast, and the litany at breakneck speed. One day Don Tomas heard us praying like that. He stopped us and said some of the most beautiful phrases I have ever heard and which I still treasure interiorly: 'But don't you realise you are uttering praises to your Mother, the Virgin Mary? Just imagine: Mystical Rose, Morning Star, Tower of Ivory... Do it affectionately, as if you were speaking to your own mother'."

FRANCISCO MIGUEL WILLAM

VIDA DE MARÍA LA MADRE DE JESÚS

VERSIÓN DE LA SEGUNDA EDICIÓN ALEMANA
POR EL PADRE MARCELINO ZALBA S.J.

*Que la Madre de Jesús
sea la guía de los hombres, al-
gunos de quienes yo he conocido en
Saragossa. 18 junio (festividad
de San Pedro Bautista de Arlés) de 1939*

Tomás

HERDER Y CO.
FRIBURGO DE BRISGOWIA (ALEMANIA)
1938



News of the cause

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

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.

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

Favours

Falling in love again

In the month of May 2020, one of my sons told me that things were not well with his wife and that they had decided to separate. I began to ask God, through the intercession of Paquita and Tomás, that this situation be resolved. I placed the prayer card beside the keyboard of the computer asking for this favour. And every time I sat down to do my homework, I prayed it. Today I can say that the marriage has been saved and they are happy.
LC (Argentina)

A growing family

The day after their wedding, my brother told me that they had already formed a new family, even if there were only the two of them, and how they dreamed of having a large family. In the first two years they had a number of miscarriages. I live in another country and used a vacation to spend a few days with them. At a meal, my sister-in-law, Marta, toasted to there being one more the following year. Soon afterwards, I remembered that I had seen a video with testimonies of miraculous pregnancies after praying to the Alvira couple. So I explained a little to Marta who this couple were and sent her the prayer card by WhatsApp. She looked at me a little confused, but started praying to them. I also committed myself to make a novena. In a couple of weeks my brother called me and said: "Marta wants to tell you something. The prayer card has worked". We kept praying that everything would go well, and this time my brother also joined us. His son was born in December.

AL (Spain)

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