

# Tomás and Paquita Alvira

Tomás Alvira (Saragossa, 1906–Madrid, 1992) & Paquita Domínguez (Borau-Huesca, 1912–Madrid, 1994)



## The Pope: one more member of the family

“They taught us from childhood to pray for the Pope and to love him a lot.”

Love for the Church and the Pope is the hallmark of every Christian. It was present in the daily life of Tomás and Paquita. Their children bear witness to the strength and naturalness with which they passed their love for the Pope on to them. They had learned from Saint Josemaría the theological foundation for this love: we have to be united to the Vicar of Christ like the branch to the vine. They had the Pope’s Blessing for the family framed in their house. Maria Isabel, one of their daughters, says: “I remember how when I was still very small and pictures of the Pope appeared less often on television, the moment they saw him on the screen my parents would immediately call all of us: *The Pope! the Pope!* They taught us from childhood to pray for him and to love him a lot. In the same way I could say that for them going to Rome meant, above all, ‘to see the Pope’. They were very moved when at the end of their lives they could greet John Paul II and receive Holy Communion from his hands.”

Maria Isabel also tells another detail that reveals the union with the Church which is so characteristic of a true Christian: “One day on coming home from school, I went to give my mother a kiss as usual. She was in the kitchen, preparing lunch. They were years of doctrinal and moral confusion. I was very surprised when my mother told me quite simply: ‘My daughter, I don’t stop repeating: Deign to humble the enemies of your Church. We have to pray it very often’.” It was a traditional liturgical prayer but new to her daughter.

Their love for the Church was woven into their love for the sacraments, especially the sacrament of Holy Orders. Before the ordination of one of their sons they wrote: “With what joy we received the news of the priestly ordination of Tomás! It is something so special, your father and I wept for joy.”

They received the sacraments assiduously with deep devotion. Teresa recalls the great happiness of her parents before her First Holy Communion: “My father came to my room to talk to me the night before and I have never forgotten that conversation. He told me that I would get presents, there would be a celebration, I would have a beautiful dress... but all that mustn’t distract me from the essential: I was going to receive Jesus and that was a very big thing. I had to be very recollected, only thinking about Our Lord.”

And in a letter to Nieves, another of their daughters, Paquita writes: “A very moving moment for me was when they brought you home after Baptism. I placed you next to my heart and there adored the Blessed Trinity inside you...”



“Tomás and Paquita in Rome in 1985”

## Answers to prayers

God's intervention is not manifested only in unexplained healings, but in simple things like finding a husband or wife for life. This is what happened to Lucía and Sebastián, who today have been married for nine years and are expecting their seventh child. Just before they met, each was breaking off a relationship because they did not see that their future there fitted the idea they had of marriage.

Providentially, they both began praying on their own to Tomás and Paquita. "I was praying to meet a Tomás for me, and one day I went to Mass and met a boy. After a few days we met again and went for a coffee that lasted five hours. That day we told each other many things, and also that we were both praying the prayer-card of Tomás and Paquita. Since then we prayed it at home every day, and through them we asked God to increase our love, respect and understanding for one another and to fulfill his will all our lives." We pray like this every day," Lucia says today.

Today, Tomás and Paquita are for us like a couple who are our friends," says Lucía, who recognises that "our history is very beautiful and very normal". In the end it's all about asking and trusting. And to abandon ourselves in God's hands, because many times we still have to take the step of abandonment. And abandonment is fundamental when it comes to praying to the Lord.

L. and S.

I went to the intercession of the Alvira so that a good friend could regularize his situation after living in a free union for four years. For nine days I prayed three sets of three prayer-cards each, that is, 'a triple novena' for this intention. A few weeks later, my friend surprised me, when he told me enthusiastically of his intention to get married, as soon as soon as it could be arranged in church.

That's how it was. In a few days, he had already planned the ceremony for a several months later. All his friends were surprised by the fact because nothing to date made them suspect what was going on to happen. Personally, I do not hesitate to attribute it to the mediation of Tomás and Paquita Alvira.

P.R.

## 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 Alvira 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)

## Publications

1. *Our Lives in His Hands: An Ordinary Couple's Path to Holiness*, Olga Marlin, Scepter 2018.
2. *The first Supernumeraries*, *Studia et Documenta*, vol. 12, 2018, Luis Cano (pp. 251-302).

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