



The Servants of God Tomás and Paquita Alvira

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

A tandem marriage

Webster's Dictionary lists several meanings of the word "tandem", one of which is "a group of two acting in conjunction". When the shared activity is married life, we want to underline with this term the extent to which Tomás and Paquita were always in harmony. Like so many others, they had heard the founder of Opus Dei, St Josemaría Escrivá say: *Paquita: your way to Heaven is called Tomás; Tomás: your way to Heaven is called Paquita.* And they took this seriously. As one of their children notes, "the love that my parents experienced was evident. This was the essential gift they passed on to us. It was continuous dedication, deep attention, mutual help without limits"¹

Only the love of God can explain such intense mutual love which, in turn, overflowed in love for their children and for everyone without exception. A few days before his death, in trembling hand, Tomás dedicated his last book to Paquita: "To Paquita, the singular, the only one, with the deepest love." And Paquita, shortly after Tomás's death, wrote to a friend: "All my life I have spent at his side. He was for me, together with my children, all the happiness I had in this world. We loved each other so much! Tomás said that as the years went by our love grew."²

Always and to the end they helped each other on their way to God. Paquita, in a letter to one of her daughters, after a bout of flu that forced her



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to stay in bed, said: "This, though annoying for me, was not the worst thing, because during those days I should have gone to do my annual retreat, and look how different the result was from what I had planned. Dad, always at the opportune moment, when I was lamenting, read to me what St Philip Neri said: 'Thank you, Lord, because things have not turned out the way I wanted, but the way you wanted'."³

And a few days before his death, Tomás confided to his eldest daughter: "I see that this is coming to an end, it will be what God wills and that is what I want. But today I'm feeling low. I offer everything for the Father, but I already tell the Lord to take me. Your mother says that I shouldn't ask God

for that, that it's a moment of many graces and if God wants me to suffer, I have to do it well."⁴

The intertwining of their lives was so consistent and progressive that both of them, until the end, thanked God for the choice they had made in getting married. Tomás, in a letter to one of his children, said: "Your mother deserves everything and I have been very grateful to God who gave me the grace to know how to choose." Paquita wrote to Tomás on her 80th birthday: "I want to tell you that I will never thank the Lord enough for the gift he gave me by choosing me to be your wife."

¹ Rafael Alvira, testimony.
² Letter to Olga Marlin, 1992.

³ Letter to his daughter M^a Isabel.
⁴ M^a Teresa Alvira, testimony.



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

Publications

- *Our Lives in His Hands: An Ordinary Couple's Path to Holiness*, Olga Marlin, Scepter 2018.
- *The first Supernumeraries: The 1948 Workshop*, Luis Cano, YearningsOceania 2022.

News of the Cause

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints has declared the validity of the diocesan processes and the drafting of the respective *Positiones* has begun.

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Favours

Please don't leave us without food

Since the beginning of our marriage we have had very serious financial problems. We have been together for 11 years but we can't manage to get on our feet; there are days when we don't have enough to eat. I don't remember how I found out about Paquita and Tomás, but one night in August when my husband and I hadn't had dinner, because we had given the last of the food to the children, I said to them: "Please don't leave us without food." The next day my in-laws called to ask if they could come to our house for lunch and to our surprise they showed up with grocery bags full of food. Tomás and Paquita did not forget us. I can't say that our financial difficulties ended after that, but I keep asking for their intercession and they have not let us fall. We are enormously grateful for their intercession. **J.C.**

New life thanks to the Alviras's

I am an architect. More than a year ago I arrived from Venezuela to look for a better future. I got an opportunity in a company in Madrid; but the experience was not good. When I arrived in Madrid I joined a group of girls who welcomed me very well and in those meetings I met a daughter of the Alvira couple. When I said that I was looking for a job, she invited me to entrust myself to the couple. Soon after that, I was surprised to get an interview in Saragossa, and they took me on. Everyone was sure that Tomás was interceding for me as he is from Saragossa; and so it was. Thanks to God and to the Alvira couple, I am very happy with my work, with the city and how my life is brightening up again. **J.C.**

They always intercede for my intentions

Every time I entrust an intention to Tomás and Paquita, they obtain from the Lord the favour I ask for. The more I obtain, the more I ask, and the more dazzled I am! My daughter's boyfriend works in a company whose management methods are questionable. Moreover, his projects oblige him to spend several consecutive weeks abroad. He wanted to change jobs before their forthcoming marriage so that he could live continuously with his wife. The job search was complicated and I decided to turn to Tomás and Paquita for the sake of the future marriage. Shortly afterwards, he had several interviews which led to a proposal for a job contract.

Once again, I thank them for their intercession and thank God for their goodness. **C.D.**