



*Homegoing Service for*

*Tomasa Alfonso*

*March 7, 1935 – September 21, 2016*

Service

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.*

***Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church***

*89 Furman Avenue*

*Brooklyn, New York 11207*

*Father Edward Smith, Ret.*

# Reflections of Life for Tomasa Alfonso

**Tomasa “Cuca” Alfonso** was born on March 7, 1935, in Havana, Cuba. She was one of eight children born to the late Fernando Calzada and Maria Rivero Calzada.

In 1969, while still in Cuba, she married Augusto Alfonso. From this union she had one beloved son, Jose. In 1970, she and her family migrated from Cuba to start a new life in the United States. After a brief stay in Minnesota with extended family, Bushwick, Brooklyn became her home where she would raise her family and establish relationships that would last a lifetime.

To support her family, Tomasa took a job as a highly skilled seamstress at a clothing factory in Downtown Manhattan. Dedicating herself to do everything for her son, she took classes at Our Lady of Lourdes and learned to speak English. She genuinely embraced everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. She treated her neighbors and friends as sisters and brothers. Above all, and always closest to her heart, the sun rose and set on her son, Jose.

In 1987, she joined the Brooklyn Central Laundry at Kings County Hospital as a laundress. It was at the Central Laundry where she made even more friends that, in typical “Tomasa style,” became family. She was a devoted mother and wife who loved to be around people. She loved to host elegant social gatherings as well as informal get-togethers for any occasion, or no occasion at all. As many of Jose’s college friends can attest to, she was a phenomenal cook – her USPS-delivered care packages of cooked pernil, rice and beans, macaroni and cheese and so much more saved many a hungry college student following the aromatic mail Jose regularly carried from the mail room. Tomasa was always willing and ready to help others and willing to do anything for anyone in need, just because. In a word, she was an angel on Earth among us and is now our guardian angel watching over us. There is no doubt that she is in Heaven orchestrating and preparing a feast for everyone around her to enjoy in celebration of her arrival.

In 1994, after twenty-five years of marriage, Tomasa became a widow and a single mother, but never surrendered her joy for life – a philosophy she embraced until the very end. In 2004, she married Clyde Gale who, along with her son, was devoted to her and cared for her.

On September 21, 2016, while at the Brooklyn Queens Nursing Home, Brooklyn, New York, at the age of eighty-one, Tomasa was called Home by our Heavenly Father after a valiant battle with many illnesses. Her transition to eternal life was peaceful and without suffering. She is predeceased by both of her parents. Her siblings in Cuba, both alive and in spirit with her now are her brothers, Valentín Calzada, Narciso Senobio Calzada, Gregorio Calzada, Domingo Calzada, and her sisters, Manuela Calzada, Juana Calzada, and Cecilia Borroto.

Tomasa leaves to celebrate her life and honor her legacy: her husband, Clyde Gale of Brooklyn, New York; her son, Jose Alfonso of North Brunswick, New Jersey; her daughter-in-law, Candice M. Alfonso of North Brunswick, New Jersey; her grandson, Austin J. Alfonso of North Brunswick, New Jersey; her great-nephew who she raised as her own son, Ignacio Calzada, Jr. of Brooklyn, New York; her step-son, August Alfonso-Forrest and his wife, Tomasa’s best friend, Sonia Alfonso-Forrest; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, many other relatives and close friends.

# Order of Service

Officiant..... Father Edward Smith, Ret.

Organist..... Felix Olivo  
Saint Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church

Entrance Hymn

First Reading - Old Testament - Proverbs 3:13-18..... Dr. Thomas Jordan

Responsorial Song - Psalm 23..... Felix Olivo

Second Reading - New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15..... Dr. Thomas Jordan

Gospel - Luke 24:1-9..... Father Edward Smith, Ret.

Homily

Prayers for The Faithful

Eucharist and Offertory Gifts

Hymn..... "I Will Raise You Up"

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Communion Hymn

Reading of the Obituary..... Virgilio Soler, Jr.

Acknowledgements and Expressions..... *(limited to 2 minutes per person please)*

Prayer and Dismissal

Blessing for Tomasa Alfonso

Hymn

Recessional ..... "On Eagle's Wings"

Interment Immediately Following the Service

## Interment

Calvary Cemetery  
4902 Laurel Hill Boulevard  
Woodside, New York 11377

Repat to Follow Interment  
401 Hinsdale Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11207

## *Come To Me*

God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be  
So He gently closed those loving eyes  
And whispered "Come to Me"  
The days of toil and nights of pain  
The weary hours have passed  
The patient gentle worn out frame  
Has found sweet rest at last.  
Day and night we stood by her  
And saw her in pain,  
Anxiously awaiting her cure  
But our waiting was in vain.  
God who knoweth all things best  
Eased her suffering, gave her rest  
She is gone but not forgotten,  
Never will our memories fade  
Sweetest thoughts of her will ever linger  
Round the place where she rests.

-Author Unknown

Sincere thanks to our Pallbearers: Michael Johnson,  
Virgilio Soler, Jr., Rob Pegues, Rick Carter, Godfrey  
John, Garrett Winn, and Dr. Thomas Jordan.

## *Acknowledgement*

The Family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the expressions of love, prayers, support and kindness shown to them during the illness and passing of their loved one. There are those whose lives death cannot diminish.

Tomasa will forever lovingly remain in our hearts.

Lovingly and Gratefully Submitted,  
The Family

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