

Putting New Questions to an Old Tradition:
José Todolí Duque (1915–1999)

LUIS MÉNDEZ FRANCISCO

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

José Todolí Duque was born in Sangüesa in the province of Navarre, Spain, on 27 May 1915. He received his secondary education at the College of the Dominican Fathers in Villava, Navarre, then entered the Order of Preachers in Salamanca. In the Dominican Faculty of San Esteban, he studied philosophy and theology, and was ordained in 1938. He obtained his doctorate in sacred theology in 1941 at the Angelicum. Within the Order of Preachers, he attained the rank of lector in sacred theology and that of preacher general.

In 1945 he joined the 'Luis Vives' Institute of Philosophy of the Consejo superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Higher Council for Scientific Research – CSIC .) as its Secretary. Here he was awarded a scholarship to continue his studies in the universities of Oxford, and Louvain, at the Sorbonne and at the Walberberg Social Institute in Cologne (1945–1947) under the direction of Professors W. David Ross, Jacques Leclercq, R. Le Senne and Welty (see the article on Walberberg in this book). Then, in 1953, he obtained the degree of Doctor in Philosophy at the University of Madrid,¹ with the grade of Distinction and Prize for Excellence.

Professional activity

Todolí began his teaching career in the University of Madrid, where he was Senior Lecturer in Ethics and Sociology and Assistant Lecturer in the Philosophy of Religion (1947–1955). Then, by taking the competitive exam, he obtained the Chair of Ethics and Sociology at the University of Valencia. He transferred to the Complutense University of Madrid in 1966 as a full tenured Professor and Head of the Department of Ethics and Sociology, where he remained until he retired in 1985. He was also an 'extraordinary' Professor of the Pontifical University of Salamanca (1949–1955) and of the 'León XIII' Institute of Sociology, in which he taught the social doctrine of the Church, chaplain and secretary of the courses in humanities of the 'Menéndez y Pelayo' International University in Santander (1959–1962), Director of 'Philosophical Encounters' in Alcalá, a national conference