



The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His Face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
(Num. 6:24-6.)

**E-BULLETIN NO. 73, MARCH 2014
MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP**

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(Jesus to Maria): "Let us turn to the little sheep, seeking to be acquainted with their Shepherd. It is I, and you are the staff, leading them to Me." (*The Poem of the Man-God*, Vol. 1, p. 246; *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, Vol. 1, p. 292)

"Publish this work as it is... whoever reads it will understand..."
– Pope Pius XII (26th February 1948)

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"Lord, I do not ask You for the glory of your visions, but for the grace to love You more and more." (*Notebooks 1944*, p. 439.)

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers' Group Members,

In this Bulletin are stories about the "little people", grandpa's hands, and a reflection on the mystery of death from Pope Francis. The Supplement includes the transcript of an amazing interview (more on that shortly).

Firstly, here are two very significant and inter-connected events which have recently occurred.

1. An E-book about Maria Valtorta

If you recall, in a previous Bulletin we introduced a major e-book written by a Readers' Group Member in the United States, which details almost anything you could want to know about Maria Valtorta and her major work. This e-book now has the new title: *A Summa & Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work*.

This extraordinary e-book - of over 1,000 pages - is the result of hundreds of hours of research conducted over two years, incorporating information from almost every single Internet website and printed source about Maria Valtorta and her works that the author could find that are available in the English language, as well as incorporating information from many primary sources available in Maria Valtorta's native Italian language. You will not likely find a more comprehensive, detailed, and honest exposition of Maria Valtorta's writings anywhere else in the English language.

This e-book is long, because it is designed to be comprehensive, like a summa and encyclopedia. It covers just about every possible thing you could want to know about Maria Valtorta and her writings, including its importance, its history, its ecclesiastical status, how it compares to other Church-approved private revelations, the 14 proofs of its divine origin (which are unprecedented), its critics and defences, and the supplementary resources available for use with it.

Since the initial introduction of this e-book, there have been lots of communications to and fro, with the author, Stephen Austin, who is becoming more and more involved with the Readers' Group's productions. Shortly after I returned from a "valtortling" trip to the U.K. and Ireland, he wrote:

"You mentioned in your most recent bulletin that you are continually searching for someone to carry on your work. Have you found anyone?"

After discussing with my colleagues Patrick Jee and Catherine Loft, I invited Stephen to visit us in Australia. He came here in January for a week, during which he spoke at a Valtorta meeting, had an interview with a local Christian television program (more on that shortly), met many Readers' Group members, and made arrangements to further the

apostolate in many new ways – particularly in North America.

The latest update of the e-book, entitled "[A Summa and Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work](#)", is found by clicking on "A New and Exciting E-book about Maria Valtorta's Writings" on our website's home page.

For an overview of the subjects that are covered in this e-book, view the Table of Contents. The e-book is designed to be comprehensive and a one-stop-source about everything you could want to know about Maria Valtorta's work; therefore, just read those chapters that interest you. Every chapter is a complete capsule of information that doesn't require the reader to read the entire e-book, or to constantly consult other chapters in order to understand the essentials of that particular chapter. Therefore, this e-book does not need to be read from front to back. Just read the chapter or sub-chapter that most interests you.

I have received this early feedback to the author:

(From the webmaster of a prominent website about Catholic mystics):

"Firstly I must say that while perusing through your incredible work, I was pleasantly astounded at the breadth and depth of this extraordinary opus. One can readily see the passion, detail and great effort you have put into this work, and I sincerely commend you for your efforts in explanation and defence of *The Poem of the Man-God*."

(From an Australian reader):

"I downloaded the research document from the website and found it amazing. It must have taken a huge amount of painstaking research. May God bless you for his hard work!"

(To me, from a priest in the U.S.):

"(The author) is very zealous and well educated... He has a scientific mind. Applied to Valtorta it could lead to great things. His SUMMA is a masterpiece indeed, but your index and extract books are also masterly. It seems to me you would make a great team."

2. A Television Interview

While here in Melbourne, Stephen was interviewed about his e-book on a local television show, which aired on Channel 31 (44) this month, in a Christian segment entitled "Spirit of Life". This can be seen on YouTube by clicking: <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EDmyVciCPn4>

It can also be seen by clicking on Stephen Austin's video on the home page of our website.

(Br. Chrys Castel, a Cistercian monk, webmaster of one of the top Valtorta sites on the Internet, and scholar of Maria Valtorta's works, wrote to Stephen:)

"I saw your interview on YouTube, I enjoyed it, and I thought you were great in answering all the questions about Valtorta. You must have quite a memory! All that you mentioned coincided with what I have come to know of her over the years."

(Arden Nelson, from Australia, writes:)

"It was a fascinating interview. I have e-mailed Stephen for a copy of his e-book. I can easily identify with your comment about actually being physically present in the narration. Thank you for the work you are doing and may God bless and make fruitful all your future endeavours in this work."

(Gwen Story, from New Zealand, writes:)

"I have just watched Stephen's wonderful YouTube interview. It certainly is great to see him speak so confidently about Maria. So young and yet so knowledgeable. God is going to use him in a very special way, I feel sure."

(There is transcript of this interview in this bulletin's supplement, with special interview follow-up comments from Stephen – Ed.)

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

David D Murray

Editor and Assistant Convenor.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE AND THE LITTLE DEFICIENCIES

[The other day I was walking through our shopping centre, thinking about something amusing – and I had half a grin on my face. I passed somebody who looked at me and gave me a big smile. So I kept my "half a grin" and had similar reactions. It has become a new habit of mine.

At Mass a couple of days later, there was a little saying from Mother Teresa on the weekly news-sheet:

"Each time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." – Ed.]

(Jesus says):

"In My infinite love for souls, apply infinite diligence to use all that poor souls give Me... provided they love Me to the extent they are able to with their entire selves, with their capacities and relativity, which they always seek to augment. There is no saint... who has not introduced some elements of soil into his or her gold, even if they are minimal. Well then, I have taken up even these portions of persistent humanity in the just. My love has taken advantage of them and changed them from a dead weight into something useful for other souls.

"Yes... My love makes use of their deficiencies, too. It takes up and transforms the most common elements in the ordinary life of a soul that loves it, and turns simple actions into meritorious actions... And at the same time it makes the soul that has committed them increase its love for Me, with gratitude for My Mercy - which does not repress them by unmasking them...

"My method in loving and saving takes on forms used by Me alone, which few understand...

"Don't you know, souls of mine, that when there is no desire to offend Me, but only to honor Me, there is no sin? And don't you know, My sweet souls, that the humility of feeling incapable, repentance over having done wrong out of a desire to do good properly, and the love blazing up more forcefully in you after one of these childish falls, [these] bring Me more glory and do more good to souls than if you never committed them? It seems like a paradox, but it's true.

"Be at peace, be at peace. My love and yours cleanse you of all the dust which may try to cover your gold - your

desire to love Me perfectly. Be at peace. And instead of the Eucharist which was not brought to you, take My Word. It is I who communicate Myself to you with My infinite means. Rest on the One Who loves you." (Notebooks 1945-50, pp. 424-6)

"...Life is made up of little things. The life with which you may conquer Eternal Life. But the little things should be observed with loving eyes and exact knowledge, and be carried out with an act of love. They then become great things, even if they are minute..."

(Notebooks 1944, p. 490)

Important Note for Recent Purchasers of the 1943 Notebooks

I have recently discovered that these 1943 Notebooks – first printed in 1996 - were reprinted some time in 2012. And in the process, there has been a slight re-numbering of the pages, which will cause confusion to users of *A Reader's Guide to Maria Valtorta's Other Writings*. If you've recently purchased a 1943 Notebooks, check the printing date at the very bottom of the second introduction page. If your copy was re-printed in 2012, then advance the page numbers for *Notebooks 1943* in the *Reader's Guide* – in the Index and in the two Scriptural Reference chapters – progressively from zero on about page 100 – to two pages and back to one page, for its (now) 627 pages.

Valtorta Booklets – Still for Free

Because of overstocking, the following three Readers' Group publications are still offered **for free** (you can have as many as you like) for just the extra postage costs, for inclusion in purchases of more than \$Aust 40.00. These are:

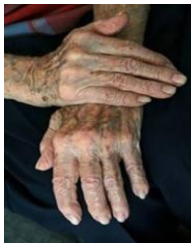
MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER AND THE CHURCH – HER LIFE, SUFFERINGS AND MISSION 160-pages, revealing details of Mary's life and the sufferings She endured, anticipating and watching Her Son Jesus being brutally crucified.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - WITH JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH An 80-page booklet of extracts from Maria Valtorta's writings, giving a comprehensive selection of insights and teachings on this vital subject.

PRAYER LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND MARY 64-page booklet, in which Jesus and Mary show us by example how THEY pray, with an Index of 101 themes and sub-themes.

GRANDPA'S HANDS

(Anonymous)



Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence. And the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK..

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I

guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands - though wrinkled, shrivelled, and weak - have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

- As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.
- They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.
- They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.
- They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son.
- Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.
- They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle.
- They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.
- They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.
- And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.
- These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.
- But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.
- And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home.

When my hands are hurt or sore I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

POPE FRANCIS REFLECTS ON THE MYSTERY OF DEATH Contemplates the Holy Death of King David During Morning Mass

[VATICAN CITY, February 06, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org))]

During morning Mass today, Pope Francis reflected on the death of King David, inviting the faithful to ask for three graces: to die within the Church, to die with hope, and to leave an inheritance of Christian witness.

Regarding the first of these graces, the Holy Father said that David died "within the womb of his people". Despite his sins in life, David was never far from the chosen people of God. This example, he said, is one that we should follow.

"Sinners, yes, traitors no!" the Pope exclaimed. "And this is a grace: to remain till the end in the People of God. To have the grace of dying in the womb of the Church, within the womb of the People of God. And this is the first point that I wish to underline. Also for us to ask for the grace to die at home. To die at home, in the Church - this is a grace! This cannot be bought! It is a gift from God and we should ask Him: 'Lord, give me the gift of dying at home, in the

Church!' Sinners yes, all of us, we all are! But traitors no! Corrupt no! ... And the Church is such a mother that She wants us even like that, many times dirty, but the Church cleans us: She is a mother!"

The Pope continued his reflection on the second grace: to die with hope. This hope is knowing that after death, something is awaiting us. This, he said, is a grace we should all ask for.

"Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus said that, in her last moments, in her soul there was a struggle. And when she thought of the future, to what was waiting for her after death, in heaven, she heard a voice say: 'But no, don't be silly, darkness awaits you. The darkness of nothing is only waiting for you!'", he recalled.

"It is the voice of the devil, of the demon, that did not want her to entrust herself to God. To die with hope and to die entrusting yourself to God! And to ask for this grace. But to entrust yourself to God begins now, in the small things in life, even in the big problems: entrust yourself always to the Lord! By getting into the habit of entrusting yourself to the Lord, hope grows. To die at home, to die with hope."

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis said that a lasting inheritance of Christian witness is the final grace we should ask for.

David said to his son Solomon before his death: "Take courage and be a man. Keep the mandate of the Lord, your God, following his ways," The Holy Father stressed that this witness of Christian life is the inheritance left to us all by the Saints.

"Those are the three things that come to my heart when reading this passage on the death of David: ask for the grace to die at home, to die within the Church. Ask for the grace to die in hope, with hope. And ask for the grace to leave a beautiful inheritance, a human inheritance, an inheritance made with the witness of our Christian life. May Saint David give to all of us these three graces!" the Pope concluded.

LETTERS

(From Australia unless stated otherwise)

The Maria Valtorta Books

You will not be surprised to know that I have never ceased to read from Maria Valtorta's writings every day. These works have brought a great blessing to my life, and I know to many others. JANICE CORDEAUX, Monarto, S.A.

I think that of all the stories Jesus told through Maria which are not recorded in Scripture, the parable of the "Two Coins" is crucial for our time. Jesus tells this rather long but stirring story, and at the end he says they represent the two gifts God has given mankind: the gift of time and the gift of free will. When I read that it hit me forcefully. Time is so precious. Every moment is a gift, and if we focused more on being/doing with what Providence puts right before us, then the will can engage more productively - to love the Lord with one's whole soul, strength, and mind...

**(*The Poem...* Vol. 4, pp. 64-8; *The Gospel...* Vol. 6, pp. 468-73)

JANICE CUMMINGS, Grain Valley MO, USA.

(It's always good to see New Zealand represented in the Bulletin. Below is a message from Jim Costello, from Runanga on the west coast. - Ed.)

Thank you so much for the work you do, promoting Maria and her writings. I must admit that I have been rather sluggish getting into Maria's writings, even though I have always read your newsletters with interest, and have a lot of

Maria's books. I kept putting off picking up Volume One of *The Poem*, even though over the last 12 months I retired from full-time work and have had a lot more free time.

Anyway towards the end of last year I hurt my back and was bed-ridden for some time. Perhaps the Lord was trying to tell me something. I am now halfway through Volume Two, and I find the books very hard to put down and so inspiring and revealing. What a wonderful work. I recently re-discovered the "Pilgrim's Guide to *The Poem*", and the detail and map in that guide is great.

Three Popes, and Maria Valtorta

Pope John XXIII did not act like the other two popes [Pius XII and Paul VI]. BUT, as two of the three he had difficulties with - Faustina, Padre Pio - have been elevated to sainthood, I believe it is time for our Maria!! How many of us have changed our hearts and minds from those wonderful writings! How many of us have fallen in love with Jesus, our Brother! EVA RICHTER, Northam W.A.

(In Bulletin # 63 Pope John XXIII was singled out as the one pope who wasn't happy with Maria Valtorta. I'm waiting for Maria's Cause to be commenced. – Ed.)

The Sunday Gospels

You've no idea how much your "Sunday Gospels" bless my nights!
MIMI KINTNER, Santiago, Chile.

The Bulletins

Thanks a lot for the truly great bulletins. I love reading them, and it is so lovely and gratifying to be with life-minded holy people.
YVONNE JOY, Dulwich Hill, NSW.

As always, thank you for the wonderful newsletters!
MARY JUDIN, Thornhill ON, Canada.

We look forward to the drops of pearls that arrive, as we are all waiting for the day of Christ's Birth...

FRANK AND DOREEN NAPOLI, Smeaton, Vic.

Thanks for your faithful posting of the bulletins, always with some gems therein.
SISTER C.M., Hobart, Tas.

Thank you so much for continuing to provide this precious material for reading. When I check the letterbox it becomes the highlight of my day. The writings of Maria Valtorta have helped me enormously.

SUE CLARK, Stanwell Park NSW.

Thank you for another year of interesting bulletins. Mum and I read your latest with much interest - especially the write-up about the doubters who didn't support Maria's writings and what Our Lord had to say about them. It was also wonderful reading about your recent trip. I was praying for you the whole time you were over there.

CARMEL TANNA, Homebush NSW.

Visit to U.K. and Ireland

It was lovely to meet you, and very encouraging to hear your presentation. I'm glad that you felt that the whole visit had gone well. I got good reports from Clive and Kathy (in Folkestone) - they enjoyed your visit a great deal. I shall look forward to being part of the Reader's Group.

FATHER MARTIN PLUNKETT, London, U.K.

Delighted to have your email and inclusions. Hope the long trip home was not too wearing.

It was very nice to have met yourself and Patrick, and I have been playing the CD you let me have. You have a distinctive voice, and there is the X-Factor...

The reading material I brought home from the Sunday afternoon is excellent. John - my Portmarnock compatriot

on the day - is an avid reader of Maria Valtorta, and he is steering me to my next selection from his considerable collection. I will be in touch with you at some point, and thanks for including me on your mailing list.

BRIAN LYNCH, Portmarnock Co. Dublin, Ireland.

The Rose Petal

(Teresa Wisoky, from South Hobart Tas., writes about the photograph of the rose petal with the Face of Jesus...)

Has anything ever been mentioned about the base of the petal in the photograph? It seems to be of a different toning and in a semi-circular shape. When the photo is held at 'arm's length', my eyes can see a cross/monstrance with the veins of the petal forming extending rays from this central point (albeit as if behind a veil) upwards. I have read that when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, it is bathed in light which we are unable to see!

Our Lord suffered until He gave His last drop of blood - the veins of the petal are as if drawing down from the crowned Head to this central point (monstrance). Do you have any thoughts about this?

(I replied: "I think the 'veins' are like the arteries of the petal in its formation. Nonetheless they seem to indicate the heart as a 'source' of the image of the Face of Jesus. Below are extracts from the 5th Luminous Mystery, in the 'Praying the Rosary...' pocket-book. – Ed.)

Hail Mary...

(Jesus says:) "The Eucharist is My Heart. I gave you My Heart at the Last Supper; I always give it to you, provided you want it. When in a woman's womb a child is formed, what is formed first? The heart. Form My Heart in yourselves by loving the Eucharist, and by loving as My Mother loved Me, just conceived."

Hail Mary...

(Jesus says:) "My Heart is a living Eucharist. Where does love start from? From the heart. What is the Eucharist? It is love. When you think, then, of the Eucharist, you can say to yourselves, 'This is the Heart of Jesus' Heart.' "

Hail Mary...

† R. I. P. †

Please pray for the souls of:

June Murray, of Coolum, Qld., who passed away on 14th September 2013, of

Robert Garnsey, of Latrobe Tas., who passed away on 11th November 2013; and of

Gerald Draayers, of East Brighton Vic., a foundation member and devoted benefactor of the Readers' Group, who died on 7th November 2013, aged 98.

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is a non-profit organisation, which retails publications of Maria Valtorta's writings, and offers other supporting materials, to its members and to other interested persons. Bulletins are sent to members every 3 months. A subscription of \$12.00 per year (a little extra if mailed overseas, and no charge for priests and religious) is requested. (E-mailed copies of the bulletins and supplements, convenient for Valtorta readers outside Australia, are now free.) A Catalogue of books and other items is available on request.

The writings of Maria Valtorta are considered by many to be among the most wonderful gifts given by Jesus to His followers and would-be followers in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The Readers' Group has much material available which supports their authenticity as Private Revelation. If you receive just a fraction of the knowledge, understanding and inspiration from Maria's revelations on the lives of Jesus and Mary, as testified by our readers, you will be very blessed. May God inspire us all, in our journeys to holiness.

[The material in this publication is not intended to represent the opinion of the Church. The editor affirms submission to the official judgement of the Church regarding the information contained herein.]