



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.)

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP
11 Best Street, Ringwood, Vic. 3134, Australia.
Tel. +61 3 9879 7853 E-mail: david@valtorta.org.au
Web-site: www.valtorta.org.au
(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)

New email address: david@valtorta.org.au ; Web-site: www.valtorta.org.au



"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,

This issue includes an article about the soul's essence – created in God's image and likeness – and a collection of passages from Maria Valtorta's writings clarifying why sins against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

The Supplement resumes the series of passages from Maria's "Quadernetti" (her Little Notebooks), which are yet to be published in English.

LISTENING, THE SOUL, AND THE ONION

(I believe that one of the greatest gifts we can give to another - especially when the other is troubled - is to listen. Many years ago I became aware of a concept which I have often found very helpful during personal encounters. For what it's worth, here it is...)

The human soul (let's call it "the onion") has an inner slice or core which is completely covered by its outer layers. These layers are there for protection and learning, however they can also stifle understanding and growth, (such as with "old tapes", prejudices, and fear).

A Practical Example of Fruitful Listening

Some years ago, I was a member of a personal growth group, which met once a week and shared the joys and sorrows of their lives. On some occasions when only a few of us turned up, each time we thought we'd have an early night. How wrong we sometimes were. There were three or four most memorable of these occasions when one of the group – exposed to very good listening – shared something deep and often very sad in his or her life, with the group, that I would glimpse something so very awesome and beautiful about this person, that I just couldn't find the words to describe it.

I never forgot such encounters, and for some twenty years I was unable to put words to what I had seen. Then one night – sharing this with my Parish Priest – he said: "don't you know, David, that we're all created in God's image and likeness." **That was it!** It was like I was witnessing a glimpse of that person's very soul, **the centre of their onion!** What a privilege that was, for me!

A Gospel Lesson from Jesus

[Recently, listening to Jesus' commentary to Maria Valtorta on the Gospel reading of the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A (Mt. 5:38-48) – from the "Sunday Gospels" recordings for that day – the following passage, about the centre of Lazarus' "onion" (in the light of the above), startled me:]

(Shortly after being raised back to life, Lazarus tells Jesus that he remembers nothing of what happened after his death. It is like there has been a perfection - a new creation. And Jesus says:)

« There you are: you have said the right word. The soul becomes as if it were created again. It becomes like the soul of an infant. It is new. The past - its past of man - no longer exists. When the Original Sin falls, the soul - without the stain, and shadow of stain - will be super-created and worthy of Paradise.

I called back your soul that had been re-created: through your willing attachment to Good; through the expiation of pain and death; and through your perfect repentance and your perfect love, achieved beyond death. So your soul is as innocent as the soul of a baby a few hours old. And if you are a new-born baby, why do you want to put, onto your spiritual childhood, the heavy cumbersome clothes of an adult? The cheerful spirit of a child has wings, not chains. They imitate Me quite easily, as they have not yet assumed any personality. They become like Me, because My figure and My doctrine can be impressed on their souls, which are devoid of all traces, and which have no confusion of ways and habits. Their souls are free from human memories, from resentment, from prejudice. There is nothing **in** them, so I can be there, perfect and absolute, as I am in Heaven.

You are born again - a new-born. Because in your old flesh the driving power is new, clean, without past and without traces of what it was. You have come back to serve Me. And only for that purpose, you must be as I am, more than anybody else.

Look at Me. Look at Me carefully. Look at yourself in Me, and mirror Me in yourself. We are two mirrors that look at each other, to reflect in each other the figure of what they love... »

(The Poem..., Vol. 5, p. 81; The Gospel..., Vol. 8, pp. 467-8)

May the Lord bless and keep you all.
David D Murray
Editor and Assistant Convenor.

SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

(In three of the Gospels, it is said that sins against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (Mt. 12:31-2; Mk. 3:39; Lk. 12:10). The following are passages from Maria Valtorta's writings which help to clarify these passages...)

(Early in His public life, Jesus is challenged by a group of Pharisees, for stating that He alone is the Father of the future century. And Jesus says:)

« ...Do you not know that there will be a century that will have a beginning but no end, and that it will be Mine?... Because I am He Who I am. And he who does not believe that which was already prophesied, sins against the Holy Spirit, Whose word was announced by the prophets. And it is neither false nor wrong, and must be believed without resistance.

And I tell you: men will be forgiven everything, all their sins and their blasphemy. Because God knows that man is not only spirit, but also flesh. And his flesh, when tempted, is subject to sudden weakness. But blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. He who has spoken against the Son of man will still be forgiven, because the weight of the flesh enveloping My Person and the man who speaks against Me, can still mislead. But he who has spoken against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this or in future life, because the Truth is what it is: clear, holy, undeniable and manifested to the spirit in such a way that it cannot mislead. Only those err who deliberately want to err. To deny the Truth spoken by the Holy Spirit is to deny the Word of God and the Love given by that word for the sake of men. And the sin against Love is not forgiven... »

(The Poem..., Vol. 2, pp. 724-5; The Gospel..., Vol. 4, pp. 315-6)

(At a later time, Jesus tells of some people who will disown Him...)

« ...It is a fault not to believe Me. But when it is based on excessive fear of God, it is still forgiven. But he cannot be forgiven, who does not yield to the truth shining through My deeds, and denies that the Spirit of Love has kept the promise to send the Saviour at the fixed time, the Saviour preceded and accompanied by the signs foretold.

Those who are persecuting Me, are acquainted with the prophets. The prophecies are full of Me. They are acquainted with the prophecies and they know what I do. The truth is evident. But they deny it because they want to deny it... And they will be judged more severely than those who do not know. Neither will they be forgiven for saying that I am "satan", because the Spirit works divine, not satanic deeds for Me. And they will not be forgiven for driving people to despair, when Love had led them to peace. Because those are all offences against the Holy Spirit. [They are] against this Paraclete Spirit Who is Love and grants love and asks for love, and Who is awaiting My holocaust of love in order to spread out in wise love, illuminating the hearts of My believers... »

(The Poem..., Vol. 4, pp. 45-6; The Gospel..., Vol. 6, pp. 444-5)

(Jesus speaks of those who repudiate the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity...)

"...I shall leave you to consider what kind of rebellion is revolt against a God Who is a Father...

"They repudiate the Son because, with no thought for the sacrifice of God the Son - Who has become incarnate to bring the Truth to man, in addition to Redemption - they cancel out every voice of this Truth in themselves, to live in their deceit.

"They repudiate the Holy Spirit because Truth is always joined to Knowledge, and it is Knowledge that with its light brings you to comprehend the most sublime truths...

"I said, 'Blasphemy against Me will still be forgiven. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.' What blasphemy is used towards Him? A lack of love which is expressed by refusing to receive the Truth illuminated by Him..."

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 434-5)

(Jesus stresses:)

"...Love: salvation. Non-love: an offense against Divine Love - that is, against the Holy Spirit in Himself or present in the living temples, your neighbors. To contest His words, or fail to appreciate them, is to commit an offense against Love. To persecute one of His instruments is to offend Love, Who wisely knows why He has chosen that instrument."

(Notebooks 1945, p. 450)

THE SUNDAY GOSPELS – AND SCRIPTURE

(A priest from South Australia writes:)

The "Sunday Gospels" help me create larger visions for my homilies.

(A priest from Taipeh writes:)

Reading Valtorta's "Sunday Gospels" help me indeed to understand the Lord's Gospel.

(And June Bell, from Stafford Qld., writes:)

"I have just been listening to the first 'Sunday Gospels' track I have heard, for the Second Sunday of Easter. And I've been 'God-smacked' – by an impact that has really brought home the Scriptures for me..."

For some years now I've had the idea in the wings, of a booklet which I could entitle "Maria Valtorta's Writings and Scripture" After hearing June's comments, I listened to the "Sunday Gospels" (MP3) track for the following (Third) Sunday of Easter – about the two men travelling to Emmaus, who had an encounter of the just-risen Jesus along the way. The Gospel verse (Lk. 24:27) reads:

"...And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself ..."

(Maria Valtorta's writings expand on this sentence in great detail:)

(Cleopas says:)
« ...We wanted to know whether He intended to say that He would rise: only with the Spirit that had become divine again - or also with His body... »

« Oh! how foolish you are, and hard to understand! » says Jesus. « And how slow you are in believing the words of the prophets! Had all that not already been said? The error of Israel is this: they have misinterpreted the regality of the Christ.

That is why He was not believed. That is why He was feared. That is why you are now in doubt.

In high places, in low ones, in the Temple, in villages, everywhere - people thought of a king according to human nature. The reconstruction of the Kingdom of Israel was not limited in the mind of God - in **time**, in **space** and in **means** - as it was in you.

Not in time: no royalty, even the most powerful one, is eternal...

Not in space. It was called: Kingdom of Israel... By saying Israel, it was meant: the kingdom of those created by God...

Not in means: The human means - I said - is oppression. The superhuman means is love...

Did David not say, that this powerful King had all things placed under His feet as a footstool? Did Isaiah not narrate all His Passion? Did David not count, one might say, also His tortures? Is it not said that He is the Saviour and Redeemer, Who with His holocaust, will save sinful mankind? Is it not stated - and Jonah is the sign - that for three days He would be swallowed by the insatiable stomach of the Earth, and then He would be ejected as the prophet was, by the whale? And was it not said by Him: "My Temple - that is My Body - the third day after being destroyed, will be rebuilt by Me (that is, by God)?"

What did you think? That by magic He would raise the walls of the Temple again? No. Not the walls. But Himself. And only God could make Himself rise from the dead. He has raised the true Temple: His Body of the Lamb...

How did He rise (you ask each other)? I reply: He has risen with His true Body, and with His Divine Spirit that dwells in it (as in every mortal body there dwells the soul as queen of the heart). That is how He has risen, after suffering everything: to expiate everything, and to make amends for the primitive Offence and for the countless ones that are committed by Mankind every day.. He has risen - as it had been said - under the veil of the prophecies. He had come at His time (I remind you of Daniel). At His time He was sacrificed. And listen and remember: at the time predicted after His death, the deicide town will be destroyed.

I advise you to do this: read the prophets with your souls - not with proud minds - from the beginning of the Book, to the words of the Sacrificed Word.

Remember the Precursor, who indicated Him as the Lamb; recall which was the destiny of the symbolic Mosaic lamb: the first-born of Israel were saved through that blood.

Through this Blood, the first-born of God will be saved; that is, those who with good will, have made themselves sacred to the Lord... Remember that it would have been contrary to His mercy, and to His mission, to punish from the height of His Cross, those who had put Him on it. He was still the Saviour, even if He was the Crucified, scoffed at, and nailed to a scaffold! His limbs were crucified, but His spirit and will were free. And with the latter, He wanted to wait, to give the sinners time to believe, and to invoke His Blood on themselves - not with blasphemous cries, but with groans of contrition.

Now He is risen. He has accomplished everything. Glorious He was before His incarnation. Three times glorious He is now. Having humbled Himself in a body for so many years, He sacrificed Himself, elevating Obedience to the perfection of being able to die on the Cross, to do God's Will. He is most glorious, with His glorified Body, now that He ascends to Heaven, and enters into the eternal Glory, beginning the Kingdom that Israel has not understood. To this Kingdom, in a more and more pressing manner - through the love and the authority of which He is full - He calls the tribes of the world. As foreseen and predicted by the just of Israel, and by the prophets, all peoples will come to the Saviour..

Here is Emmaus, My friends. I am going further. No stop is granted to the Wayfarer, Who has to travel so far. . »

LETTERS

(From Australia unless stated otherwise)

Stephen Austin's Television Interview and E-book (Steve sent me two messages he has received:)

Stephen, I am absolutely overjoyed by what I've read so far in the latest bulletin. I saw the video - and now just a few pages of the E-book.

With what you've made available, God willing, the work will be translated into as many languages as *The Poem* has been translated to, as soon as possible. Stunning how the yearnings of those who love *The Poem* have finally brought about this new work which undeniably defends and elucidates and corroborates *Poem* and Scriptures - and all the comments made about them - as true.

The phrase which you used, "like a movie script" was perfect - and made me think of repeating it whenever I encounter a potential reader.

It is quite astonishing you've been able to glean so much and print it in only two years ! Thank God for your passion in this magnificent endeavour !

Gratefully from Chile, MIMI KINTNER

Stephen, I have just read several hundred pages of your Summa and recently watched your interview on Australian TV. I want to congratulate you on a most marvellous achievement. For the past several years I have been engaged in a sort of "running debate" with clerics and others who are sceptical of Maria Valtorta's works - and I don't know if I've gained any ground or not. While the pastor of our church here, Father Steve Kunkel, is a firm believer in the authenticity of "The Poem", Bishop Thomas Olmsted of the Phoenix Archdiocese is not...

What a masterful and scholarly piece of work your *Summa* is. This country has needed a solid and well-versed defender and promoter of Valtorta since the first English editions appeared in the '80s. I hope you can catch the public eye with this and run with it for all it's worth. All Christians - especially Catholics - need to know what a fantastic gift Jesus has given to us, but too many people are unaware of it and not enough church people are promoting it. Thanks so much for your efforts - and we'll pray for you.

ROGER E. SCHOENECKER, Cambridge MN, USA.

Last week when I was trying to tell our new priest about Maria's writings he said, "Why would Jesus re-write/change (I forgot his exact word) the gospels?" "I know," I said, "We are living in a technological/digital age. Jesus is meeting our needs. The new generation is very visual. Two-year-olds and up play with their mother's i-phone and i-pads to keep them amused." Can you imagine my delight when I read the transcript of Stephen Austin saying the same thing? I am planning to give a copy of the transcript to our local priest, praying that he reads it.

I am a visual learner, and so for me Maria's writing are a great blessing and delight. It's just like being there, being one of the apostles, and that takes me out of this world . As teacher I admire Jesus' pedagogy. He informs through narratives/parables which are based on our living experiences, enabling us to draw our own conclusions. Thus they become our beliefs and not something we are told to believe. Does this suggest 'witnessing'?

I am a great fan of the Holy Spirit. I feel our society is trying too hard to do everything with our personal powers, and yet everything we know comes to us gifted by the Holy Spirit. The apostles did nothing until the Holy Spirit descended

upon them. The Holy Spirit filled Mary, and She begs us to pray that He may renew the face of the earth. Mary is repeating history, in a magnified form. For this generation the upper room is now the whole world.

MARIE FITZGERALD, Cape Tribulation, Qld.

The Maria Valtorta Books

Our lives have been opened by Maria Valtorta. The sorrows and joys of our dear Lord and His Holy Mother, and the wonderful apostles and holy women, seem so close to us. And we try to emulate their lives through Maria's books...

UNA PYKE, North Plympton, S.A.

An Irish Thank-you

I just want to thank you, and assure you that I got those Rosary booklets (through Stuart McGovern in Dublin*), and I'm most grateful. I gave one each to my two sisters and we are all finding them an inspiration and of great assistance. One of my sisters doesn't read Valtorta, but she does LOVE the "Praying the Rosary" booklet, and says her mind doesn't wander now when saying the Rosary... My heartfelt thanks to you and Ed Ford for putting it all together TERESA MOYNIHAN, Dublin, Ireland

(*While in Ireland last November, Patrick Jee and I left our un-sold booklets etc. with Stuart – we didn't want to cart them back to Australia with us.)

I have an e-book version of *The Poem* on my kindle, so I'm wondering whether there's a "Pilgrim's Guide" version that references the [chapter] headings rather than page numbers? I have a vague memory of you releasing a revision but I can't remember the basis.

I remember crying when I finished the final volume for which I had waited to be printed and distributed in English - somewhere around 1990+ I think. I used to read the volumes till 3 in the morning because I just couldn't put them down. There were many times I cried during the reading - I think the first time was when Jesus had to send John of Endor away - I just sobbed and sobbed at this point....

I've since read [other visionaries' accounts], but *The Poem* without doubt is always the most moving of all. I hope I can take the books to heaven with me!!! That's silly really - I won't need them there, but it's just so hard to imagine heaven being something other than reading *The Poem*. "Reading" isn't an adequate verb!!

MARY WHITING, Box Hill, Vic.

(I sent Mary an Index for the new 10 volumes – with chapter/part numbers, rather than volume/page numbers.)

I'm beginning a readers' group next week at a nursing home. I would welcome receiving your Group Bulletin and Supplement. It has taken me eight years to get this going.

While I have benefited spiritually for some 20 years of *Poem*-related reading, I find it so curious that eliciting similar interest among my closest friends has been stonewalled. Am hoping this nursing home group of seniors, perhaps close to their Maker, will find solace in the words of *The Poem*.

JERRY BIRES, Carbondale III, USA

The Little Booklet on Dying

Thank you for putting together the booklet "Crossing the Threshold of Death". This morning I was reading the brief but very beautiful pieces found on page 30 with the title, "Now and At the Hour of Death", and thought of so much pain and loneliness in the world at present, as well as so much bitterness. I wondered: How many have given up? How many could simply turn to Mary? I thought of myself and the stress I go through, as we all do, in fact! I thought: it

would still be easier if I remembered to think of Mary more often, in the least thing...

Mary is our "way in" and "way out". She has been compared to the moon that brightens up the darkness after the sun has set. She is light for the soul...

If Mary were a company, we could call without getting a voice mail... We'd talk to a live person. She would answer directly, without a secretary... With Mary, any problem is solvable... She will SEE, HEAR, LOOK, LISTEN immediately... She is but a thought away, a call away. No distance is too great, and no wound too deep...

JANICE CUMMINGS, Grain Valley MO, USA.

† RIP †

Please pray for the souls of:

Patrick Carty, husband of Lorraine, of Balwyn, Vic., who passed away on 25th January 2014;

of **Rose Stephens**, of Ballina, NSW, who passed away on 28th February 2014;

and of **Father Paul Rougeul**, of La Pierre-Qui-Vire, France, brother of Marie-Claude Rangott of Griffith, NSW, who passed away on 4th March 2014.

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-mail 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.]