



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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(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)



"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.)

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers' Group Members,

Continuation of 19 Years of Bulletins

In this issue we introduce two aspects contributed by members of what becomes a "gang of four" – combining further talents for future bulletins. These are: Catherine Loft's "Classroom"; and Patrick Jee's "Forum". While remaining "assistant editor" myself (a Higher Power stays overall Editor), the fourth member of this new "gang" – Stephen Austin – continues his role from the previous issue, in contributing to the bulletin's supplement.

This bulletin (also being sent to contacts who haven't been receiving the quarterly issues) includes a collation of extracts from Maria Valtorta's writings entitled "The Human Eye". The supplement (for regular recipients) contains a "Philosophy for Leaders", a further extract from Stephen's *Summa and Encyclopedia* e-book, plus another instalment from Maria Valtorta's *Quadernetti*. An updated catalogue contains a few "extras" for your consideration.

Secondly, and most importantly, a young man, Stephen Austin from the USA, visited Australia and told us about the Summa he had written on Maria's works (see website: www.valtorta.org.au) It took him weeks and months of research to authenticate the references of her work on many levels. Well, after reading it, I had all the validation I needed should the need arise.

At last, I was no longer afraid or hesitant to share her writings, and not long after, an opportunity presented itself with a much younger audience in the classroom.

As part of our Year 10 RE course, I informed the students at the start of the year that they would be required to watch Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* based on the writings of Anne Catherine Emmerich. So I talked a little about her and her writings to prepare them for the information and detail that was in the movie which was not in the Gospel.

Two weeks later, the lesson after Ash Wednesday, I introduced them to another mystic, Maria Valtorta, and how her writings go into great detail on many levels. So in the first 5 minutes of each class during Lent, we would read passages from the booklet *The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus*, of which I had a class set, so they were able to share the reading.

They certainly had questions and made comments which was very important because I wanted them to learn to discern what they read too, but after that, they just listened and 'watched' the events of Jesus' Passion and death unfold each lesson (three days a week).

They were fascinated by the description, appalled by the behaviour of the Romans, horrified at the way Jesus was treated by the leaders, confused by the response of the Apostles, respectful of the women who followed Jesus, and empathetic to Mary (because by this time, I think they were thinking of their own mothers). By the time it was Passion Week, they knew that they were not just watching yet another religious movie, but they were watching it with respect and with insight, although no one was quite prepared for the

(My 11-year-old grandson was asked by his mother what name he wanted for his upcoming Confirmation. He said he had chosen Benedict, arising from a class project he had undertaken. She told me she was moved by how special this following quote from St. Benedict was, when he mentioned in the car one morning that this is going to be his motto for life...)
"Listen with the ear of your heart"

God's blessings to you all, this Christmas season !,
David D Murray, assistant editor.

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta members,

I have been reading Maria Valtorta's works for years and never really shared it with others as much as I would have liked because I was hesitant of people telling me that it had been on a "list of forbidden books" and that much of what she says needs to be validated.

But all that has changed for two reasons.

Firstly, the title itself was finally changed from *The Poem of the Man God* to *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, which is a far more accurate representation of the content. (For further information on the naming of this work in English and in other languages, see my article in Bulletin Supplement #69¹.)

ed to give her Work. In the early days, it was considered necessary to avoid declaring the word "Gospel" in the title, and it was given a provisional title: *The Words of Eternal Life*. Also considered were *The Divine Tragedy*, *The Divine Drama*, *The Poem of Jesus* and so on. Finally, it became *The Poem of the Man-God*. With the renaming of the English version in 2012, all the translations of Maria Valtorta's Work finally carry the same title as the original Italian edition that Maria desired.

¹ *The Gospel of Jesus as it was revealed to little John* (along with similar variations) was the actual name Maria Valtorta want-

visual graphics contained in the actual movie (none of us were).

The response afterwards was very mixed, honest and heartfelt, and I was so pleased that the content of their assignment revealed more depth and reflection than I had expected.

I cannot guarantee that this experience will change their outlook on their faith, being young 16-year-old men who live in the moment, but I know that Maria's work read in snippets for only 5 minutes over a period of time showed them the extent that Jesus truly loves them and suffered for them.

The seed has been planted, the most important being in helping them grow in the faith and in their love of God. I feel so blessed that I can finally help enrich their knowledge with the Gospel first and foremost, sprinkled with Maria's writing where the course allows it and for the enhancement of information. I just hope that other parts of the course will invite further sharing in class of segments from ***The Gospel as Revealed to Me***.

When I mentioned all this to David, he invited me to have a regular column in his bulletin, called CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM, where I could share my experiences with you all. I hope you will also feel the joy that I felt enriching the youth of today with Jesus' words through Maria Valtorta.

You are welcome to respond or make suggestions by email to Catherine Loft at hiloft@ozemail.com.au.

PATRICK'S FORUM

Dear Valtorta Members,

My introduction to Maria Valtorta came by way of a book that was lying on a table in my father-in-law's room, *The Poem of the Man-God*, Volume 1. I picked up the book to read and, as they say, "The rest is history."

Being able to read such a vivid account of the Gospel and having Father God and our Lord Jesus (and a whole host of other saints talking to us) is like taking a sip of heavenly air to me! To say that this has been life-changing is to understate it completely in a way.

It seemed a natural progression that Our Heavenly Father would speak to us through an instrument such as Maria Valtorta, especially chosen because of her humility and her willingness to submit herself to the Divine Will.

On a personal level, the deepening of my faith over the last 10 years through the readings of Maria Valtorta has been tested on many levels as I struggled through a few major setbacks in life (which would have rendered me a spent force) but for the conviction that God was beside me and that, through thick and thin, He would see me through it, as indeed He did!

Our "Valtorta Book Club" meeting was formed some 6 years ago out of a gnawing urge that this exciting new-found discovery in Maria Valtorta needed expression as many of us could hardly contain ourselves, and we felt the need to share our thoughts with like-minded people. Our monthly get-together at my home has given rise to many shared discoveries through the many passages from volumes of Maria Valtorta books, and has given answers to the many questions and grey areas we all harboured.

This led me to the suggestion that there could be an online meeting: 'Patrick's Forum', where our Readers Group members could share their response on a chosen passage, one per month – a worldwide readers group meeting.

More details in the March bulletin 2015.

God Bless! Patrick Jee - jee.patrick@gmail.com

THE HUMAN EYE

(One day recently, just before shopping, I was chuckling about something funny I heard on the radio. Walking along the shops with a half grin, I noticed that whenever I made eye contact with someone, I almost always received a smile in return. Since then I read a scientific article about the human eye – expounding on one of God's most complicated and extraordinary creations within the human body. There are passages in Maria Valtorta's writings concerning the profound role that the human eye plays in our lives. Here are some of them - Ed...)

(Jesus comments to Maria Valtorta about what she saw of Mary, as a new-born infant...)

« ...Since you see Her, tell me: Is Her glance as an infant very different from the one you saw She had at the foot of the Cross, or in the delight of Pentecost, or when Her eyelids closed upon Her innocent eyes for Her last sleep? No. Here is the uncertain and astonished glance of an infant, then it will be the amazed and modest look of the Annunciation, and then the happy one of the Mother in Bethlehem, then the worshipping glance of My first and sublime Disciple, then the tormented one of the Tortured Mother on Golgotha, then the radiant glance of Resurrection and Pentecost, and then the veiled look of the ecstatic sleep of the last vision. But whether it opens at the first sight, or closes tired on the last light, after seeing so much of joy and horror, Her eye is the clear, pure, placid piece of the sky that always shines below Mary's forehead. Wrath, falsehood, pride, lewdness, hatred, curiosity never soil it with their smoky clouds.

It is the eye that looks at God lovingly – whether it cries or laughs – and that for God's sake fondles and forgives and bears everything. And by the love of God it is rendered unassailable to the assaults of Evil, that so often makes use of the eye to penetrate the heart. It is the pure, restful, blessing eye that the pure, the saints, the lovers of God possess.

I said: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light. But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be all darkness"². Saints possessed this eye – which is the light for the soul and salvation for the flesh – because like Mary throughout their lives they looked only at God. Even more: they remembered God. »

(Poem..., Vol. 1, pp. 36-7; Gospel..., Vol. 1, pp. 46-7)

(Jesus speaks of a quality of the Three Wise Men³...)

« ...They feel they are nothing with regard to their wisdom as compared to the Most High God, from Whom their wisdom comes and Who gave them more powerful eyes than those two pupils by means of which they see things: the eyes of their souls, which know how to read in things the word not written by human hands, but engraved by God's thought... »

(Poem..., Vol. 1, p. 176; Gospel..., Vol. 1, p. 212)

(Maria Valtorta describes the face of Satan, when he appears to Jesus during His temptation in the desert⁴...)

« ...Only a very small dark triangle of his face can be seen, with thin, sinuous lips, very black hollow eyes, full of magnetic flashes. Two eyes that penetrate and read into the bottom of your heart, but in which you can read nothing, or

² Mt. 6:22-3.

³ See Mt. 2:1-12.

⁴ Mt. 3:16-17, Mk. 1:10-11, Lk. 3:21-2, Jn. 1:32-4.

one word only: mystery. The very opposite of Jesus' eyes, also so magnetic and fascinating, which read in your heart, but in which you can also read that in His heart there is love and bounty for you. Jesus' eyes caress your soul. Satan's are like a double dagger that stabs and burns you... »

(*Poem...*, Vol. 1, p. 248; *Gospel...*, Vol. 1, p. 294)

(*Early in His public life, Jesus is speaking to a crowd of people in Bethsaida, about purity...*)

« ...The purer you are, the more you will understand. Because impurity, whichever it may be, is always smoke that dims and makes heavy both your sight and your intellect. Be pure. Begin with your bodies and then pass on to your souls. Start from your five senses and then go on to the seven passions...

Your eye is the king of senses, that makes way to the most painful and complicated appetites. The eye sees the body of a woman and it lusts after a woman. The eye sees the wealth of rich people, and it lusts after gold. The eye sees the power of rulers and it lusts after power. Let your eyes be peaceful, honest, sober and pure – and your desires will be peaceful, honest, sober and pure. The purer your eye is, the purer your heart will be... »

(*Poem...*, Vol. 1, p. 510; *Gospel...*, Vol. 1, p. 821)

(*During His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of high places and mountain tops...*)

« ...You are the light of the world⁵. You are like this mountain top which was the last to be kissed by the sun and the first to be silvered by the moon... I would say that the physical eye, which is said to be the mirror of the soul, reflects the yearning of the soul, a yearning often unnoticed but always alive as long as a man is not a demon, a yearning after heights where reason by instinct places the Most High. And searching for Heaven, at least some times in life the eye looks at heights... »

(*Poem...*, Vol. 2, pp. 129-30; *Gospel...*, Vol. 3, p. 80)

(*Jesus is speaking to a crowd of people near the banks of the Jordan River, about honesty in our actions...*)

« ...Be honest in your looks, as you are in your words and deeds. A look – given to those who do not deserve it, or denied to those who do deserve it – is like a noose and a dagger. The look that meets the impudent eyes of a prostitute, and says to her: "You are beautiful!", and replies to her inviting look with assent, is worse than the slip knot for a hanged man. The look denied to a poor relative or to a friend fallen into poverty, is like a dagger that pierces the hearts of those unhappy people. And likewise the glance of hatred or of contempt cast at one's enemy or at a beggar. Enemies are to be forgiven and loved at least with your souls, if your bodies refuse to love them. Forgiveness is love of the spirit. Not to take revenge is love of the spirit. A beggar is to be loved because nobody comforts him. It is not sufficient to throw a mite and pass by scornfully. The offering serves for the starving, naked, homeless body. But the pity that smiles in offering, that takes an interest in the tears of the unhappy fellow, is bread for his heart. Love, love, love... »

(*Poem...*, Vol. 3, pp. 657-8; *Gospel...*, Vol. 6, pp. 185-6)

(*Azariah, Maria Valtorta's Guardian Angel, speaks to Maria about souls, and love, and words spoken...*)

"...Words which seem to have been spoken and received in vain and which sometimes reappear on one's deathbed and win the final battle, delivering a spirit to God.

Words which sometimes halt a descent into horror and crime. Words which sometimes pull a spirit out of the abyss and put it back on the way of God.

"Many words are not needed. Sometimes none. To see one another – a glance. Your eyes gaze in a way that is no longer earthly. You look, but it is not you – Christ looks through you. You see: but you do not see the man in front of You. You see his soul with your soul. It is because of this looking with the soul after you have filled your gaze with celestial light, that you do not look the way everyone else does. You listen to the stories of others and often remain silent. But while your lips are silent, your soul loves. And by loving, it caresses and comforts the embittered, sick, irate soul speaking to you. You also speak sometimes and say commonplace words to commonplace listeners, from whom you want to keep your secret hidden. But, like the note of a song which now and then escapes from a closed hall and fills the street with sweetness, and which the poor man gathers in and draws consolation from, now and then a spiritual gem falls from your lips, a spark escaping from the Fire possessing you, and the one speaking with you receives it and meditates upon it, and his soul awakens, reflects, and sometimes decides.

"Nothing from the works of love is ever lost. Love is in you, and everything is thus active.

[*The Book of Azariah*, p. 121 (1993 edition), p. 126 (2007 edition)]

"...Charity ought to be so great in you, that even a simple gaze should be a caress for your brothers, because it is so full of love. And, truly, when God is so alive in the spirit that He is entirely one with the creature, the human eye becomes that source of peace, of affection, whereby whoever suffers feels consoled, whoever is alone feels himself to be with a brother, and whoever doubts reaches faith. For, as in the time of the early Christians, the one that converts is love..."

[*The Book of Azariah*, pp. 270-1 (1993 edition), pp. 280-1 (2007 edition)]

(*Jesus says:*)

"...*Gazing steadily at God, on high, very high above the earth, you can, if you wish, attract souls to you – that is, to God, in whom you live. It is an operation requiring generosity and constancy. Even a blink must serve this end. All of your actions must have this as their goal. There are looks which can convert a heart, when God shines forth in them...*"

(*Notebooks 1944*, p. 115)

The Poem of the Man-God

We have purchased a number of copies of Volume 2 of *The Poem*, at a bargain price. These could be useful to lend to prospective readers, as "tasters", encouraging them to look further into Maria Valtorta's writings. I can send you one for \$ Aust 10.00, plus shipping.

LETTERS

(*From Australia unless stated otherwise*)

The Valtorta Books

The Poem continues to renew my spirit with each read... and I'm encouraged to hear others around the world voice the same. [I yearn to be with] the apostles, Maria Valtorta, and others I have learned from and about from reading *The Poem*. I yearn at times, for Him calling me Home!!

KAREN CROWE, Glendale AZ, USA.

I regularly check Valtorta when preparing a homily.

Fr J.L., NSW

⁵ Mt. 5:14.

...I've been bed-ridden for seven years in gradual degradation through an inoperable spine. Now nearly paralysed and a bit of a mess, but oh! so happy, happy, happy – growing younger, younger, younger – living on Maria, *The Poem*... and the bulletins which fill me with joy, seeing how wonderfully the Work is spreading.

I can do nothing but pass on the little bulletin whenever I can... How can so many "have doubts" about what has brought me so much, and which I only long to share.

I scatter a few seeds with those who live and work here in this medicalised home for oldies... I get to know my neighbours, all in wheel chairs but having had brain accidents – I'm the only one still mentally present... All here are "unbelievers", but often in heartbreaking personal situations. I pray the Lord may use the little seeds [I spread]....

Till we fly off with joy to Heaven and ...whoever gets there first... after!... All my prayers!

NINA McCARTHY, Sirlon en Valloire, France.

The Bulletins

Thank you for your on-going work. It was such good news to read that Mother Theresa was a reader of Maria Valtorta.
NORMAN ADAMS, Rochester NY, USA.

Thank you very much for your bulletin.

I offer my life as a Benedictine monk to Our Lord and Our Lady for reparation. Please remember me in your prayers, to finish my novitiate successfully.

BRO. D., NM, USA.

There's just nothing like *The Poem*. I never want to be without it... Re Abbe Rene Laurentin, he has a dictionary of all the characters in *The Poem*. Next year I will try to bring up this topic of Maria Valtorta with him...

JOSEPHINE SHIPLACOFF, Los Angeles CA, USA.

Thank you for the precious material of the bulletins and e-mails. Maria Valtorta's visions and explanations could renew our thinking about God and our destination...

FATHER M. S., S.A.

It was a good idea to print extracts of the e-book in the Supplement, because there appear to be some NZ readers who don't use the computer, so to be able to read the transcripts will help them.

GWEN STORY, Taradale, New Zealand.

My brothers read of Maria Valtorta. My name is Anna Maria, and in my country I speak Spanish. I do not speak English, but with the help of Google translator, I was able to write. I want to tell you that I have met a priest named Giovanni, who visited us from Italy. He recommended that I read Maria Valtorta, I found a link with the Rosary Mysteries, and my heart is filled with Joy...

I belong to a mission called White Army, which builds nests of prayer. We teach children to pray the rosary, and as Father Pio says, children saved the world with the holy Rosary. **Two days ago I found the www.valtorta.org.au website, with Maria Valtorta's Gospel Meditated Rosaries.** My question is: are the CDs in Spanish (??) You say you can send email newsletters to no cost. Do not worry because I will use the Google translator...

ANNA MARIA MONTECINOS, Chile.

Note: The complete collection of Maria Valtorta Readers' Group's bulletins and supplements are available for download from our website at:

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/Newsletter.html>

The Sunday Gospels

I am thoroughly enjoying listening to the Sunday Gospels as I drive to Mass – it is so uplifting – and so wonderful to be able to be part of Our Lord's life on earth.

PENNY HENDRIE, Eltham Vic.

(In addition to the Gospel Meditated Rosaries, we're delighted to tell you that audio tracks of The Sunday Gospels, including the Gospels of Christmas and other major Feast Days – from now up to 22nd February 2015 (the 1st Sunday of Lent in Year B) – can now be downloaded from our website. See:

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/SundayGospels.html>

† RIP †

Please pray for the souls of

Anne Develin, of Mansfield, Vic., who died on 14th August 2014 - the Vigil of the Feast of the Assumption; and **Father Peter Mary Rookie**, of Chicago, U.S.A., an avid advocate of Maria Valtorta's writings, who died on 9th September 2014, aged 97 years..

WE NEED A FRENCH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

Dear Maria Valtorta members,

We are in need of a translator who can help translate an important French work into English. Jean-François Lavère, a professional engineer, has been studying the works of Maria Valtorta for 25 years. Convinced that the historicity of Maria Valtorta's work would either prove itself, or show itself to be wrong, he undertook a systematic study of thousands of details provided in her work.

He has methodically identified, over the years, more than 10,000 pieces of data in her writings in fields as diverse as the arts, astronomy, flora and fauna, ethnology, geography, geology, history and geopolitical science, technology, metrology, religions, social sciences, etc., and he has shown how these details correspond to authoritative sources with remarkable accuracy. Bishop Johanan-Mariam Cazenave, the Secretary of the Syrian-French Synod, wrote a preface for this book in February 2012, which is viewable online here (this is an English translation of his preface):

http://www.bardstown.com/~brchrys/The_Valtorta_Enigma_Preface.pdf

Jean-François Lavère released this work in June 2012, which is entitled (in French) *L'énigme Valtorta, Une Vie de Jésus Romancée?* (*The Valtorta Enigma, a Fictionalized Life of Jesus?*). We agree with Bishop Cazenave that this book is one of the most significant scientific studies of Maria Valtorta's writings to be printed thus far. There is nothing like it available in the English language yet. A kind lady started the French to English translation but was unable to finish it. It is a priority for Jean-François Lavère and Valtorta fans to have this translation finished and so if you or anyone you know is capable and would be willing to help translate it, please contact us at the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group. Thank you!

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is a non-profit organization, 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.]