

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 79 – September 2015

**'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)

**'When we pray, we speak to God,
But when we read, God speaks to us.'**
– St Jerome



'Publish this work as it is... whoever reads it will understand...'
– Pope Pius XII

Editorial

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,
I was recently reminded of the Portiuncula Indulgence given to Saint Francis of Assisi in 1221. Saint Francis was instructed to go to Pope Honorius III to sanction the Indulgence, and the following discussion took place.

'Holy Father,' Francis said urgently, 'a little while ago I restored a chapel for you in honor of the Virgin Mother of Christ and I beseech you to bestow on it an indulgence.' 'For how many years do you want this indulgence?' the Pontiff inquired. 'Holy Father,' said Francis, 'I ask not for years but for souls.' ...Pope Honorius pondered the extraordinary request, and said slowly three times: 'I also, in the name of God, grant you the indulgence.' Pope Honorius wanted to give Francis the document of the indulgence, but Francis saw no need for it. 'What have you to show that this indulgence has been granted you?' the Pope asked in amazement as Francis prepared to depart for Assisi without any written confirmation of the great permission. 'Holy Father,' he replied, 'Your word is enough for me. If this is the work of God, it is for Him to make His work manifest. I desire no other document. The Blessed Virgin Mary shall be the charter, Christ the notary, and the angels the witnesses.'

When I read this, I immediately thought of Maria Valtorta's situation. Her writings were also given to help save souls, and while many people were, and still are, concerned about whether these Works have been given the Nihil Obstat and an Imprimatur in writing, Saint Francis' comments parallel Maria's publisher's encounter with Pope Pius XII who gave it a verbal approval. *'Publish this Work as it is...Whoever reads it will understand.'* Yet, look how these writings have managed to spread throughout the world. Whether we think this has taken place too slowly, or has not spread widely enough, is not relevant - everything in God's time. Furthermore, as Saint Thomas Aquinas once said, *'To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.'* (However, for those still discerning or are questioned by others, see the **Appendix** which has a detailed list of those who have approved and endorsed the Work. Refer also to pp. 553-9 of *the Summa & Encyclopedia* by Stephen Austin on our website. Or visit our homepage to watch the impressive interview given by Stephen on the *Spirit of Life* program in Australia. For those who do not have internet access, I will include a free DVD recording of this episode with any order on request.) As 12 October is the anniversary of the death of Maria Valtorta, here is my prayer to thank the Lord for using Maria as His

instrument, and to pray that one day soon, we will celebrate her sainthood. So let us pray a novena for the canonisation of Maria Valtorta on 3-11 October (or at any time), so that many more souls will be saved through her writings. Then, let us leave the rest to God.

**O Most powerful and loving God, our Father,
In virtue of the precious drops of blood shed
by Your Son, Jesus
and the seven swords that pierced the heart of
our sorrowful Mother Mary,
we ask for the Beatification and Canonisation of
Maria Valtorta.**

**We know that Maria, a victim soul, always wanted
to remain little and unnoticed,
but if it is in keeping with Your Holy Will,
take care of everything that may impede this request,
and see to it that her Works are spread
throughout the whole world,
so that everyone will come to fully understand
and embrace these precious writings,
which show us the life of Jesus and Mary,
and just how much You love us.
We ask this for Your Honour and Glory,
and to draw all souls home to You.
We thank you, loving Father.
Amen.**

A Reader asks: **What is the purpose of the Bulletin?** Not everyone is fortunate enough to know who reads Maria Valtorta in their area, state or country. Nor are they blessed with the ability to meet in groups either weekly or monthly. So the aim of the **Bulletin** is to bring like-minded people worldwide to a Readers-Group meeting in spirit, in order to experience the warmth and wonder of knowing that so many people love the writings as much as they do, and to be kept informed of the latest regarding Maria and her writings. (As this opportunity only takes place quarterly, Readers are invited to contribute to the **Readers' Choice** column or join **Patrick's Forum**.)

What is the purpose of the Supplement? The answer is threefold. **Firstly**, it is a selection of passages chosen on a thematic level from all of Maria's Works. This enables people who do not have all the writings to read portions for closer study or for meditation. The theme for the **Supplement** this quarter is Fatherhood. **Secondly**, it is to present any material to you that has not yet been translated from the Italian into English, such as passages from the *Quadernetti* (Little Notebooks), other passages from Dr. Emilio Pisani's books, or articles from **II**

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Bolletino (CEV-Maria Valtorta Foundation in Italy). Thirdly, it is to include selected aspects from Stephen Austin's **Summa & Encyclopedia**.

So to all Valtorta Readers worldwide, may God bless you, and I hope you find something in this edition which helps you grow in faith.

Catherine Loft

David's Journey Continues...

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Many years ago, after discovering Maria Valtorta's writings while visiting a Marian apparition site in Europe, I was at a pilgrimage centre here in Melbourne, sharing my excitement about these writings with a friend. This friend voiced his disturbance to me saying that Maria's writings were a no-no. I began to worry. That evening, during an all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, some words came to my half-sleeping mind: 'Chapter 10, and you will understand'. I woke with a start.

On my lap was a little booklet about angels – it had just 9 chapters. Next morning, while wandering around the centre, I picked up a number of books, looking for the elusive chapter 10 [to] no avail. Then suddenly I thought of *The Poem of the Man-God*, and somehow 'I just knew' that this would be the book. Back to the Chapel I went, with Volume 1 of *The Poem* in my hand. Chapter 10 describes a 12-year-old Mary's Canticle imploring the coming of Christ during Her years in the Temple at Jerusalem. (In the previous chapter, Maria records Jesus' comments about the death of Joachim and Anne, Mary's parents.) My reading of chapter 10 cast no light on my dilemma concerning the previous night's message – until I read Maria's words at the end of this chapter:

'A note of mine. All day yesterday, I thought I was going to see the news of the death of Her parents being given to Mary by Zacharias, I do not know why. I also thought, in my way, that Jesus would have dealt with the point 'remembrance of God by the saints'. This morning, when the vision started, I said to myself: 'Here we are, they will now tell Her that She is an orphan'. My heart was already trembling because I would have experienced my own sadness of these past days. Instead, there has been absolutely nothing of what I thought I was going to see or hear. Not even one word by mistake. I am very happy about this because it confirms that there is nothing of my own in this work, not even an honest suggestion with regard to one situation. It all comes from a different source. My continuous fear ceases... until the next time because I shall always be afraid of being deceived, and deceiving.' (***The Poem of the Man-God, Vol. 1, p. 57; The Gospel as Revealed to Me, Vol. 1, pp. 71-2***).

[From this], I understood that Maria's fear was my fear also! A little later, walking around the centre, I picked up Pope John Paul II's new book: *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. In chapter 1, the (then current) pope described the first day of his pontificate when he adopted as his motto: "Be not afraid." Bingo! That's for me! In the 22 years since, I have had absolutely no fear that there is any deception or untruth in Maria Valtorta's writings!

Moving forward to the present time, I repeat my delight that the transfer of major responsibility for the management of Readers' Group affairs to Catherine Loft has gone without a hitch. Now, this elderly man is in the process of developing a new mini-career – in singing, I have been conducting "happy hours" with keyboard and songs at some nursing homes for a few years – having a crooner's voice which people I know seem to like. I have "put down" (as they say) my first CD entitled "*Songs of Sadness and Love*", and I am assembling backing tracks for a greatly expanded repertoire. For what it's worth, here is a link to one of my CD's songs:

http://www.valtorta.org.au/Audio/David_Murray_Hallelujah.mp3

May God bless and keep you all.

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

Catherine's Classroom

Dear Valtorta Readers,

On the Feast of Saint Roch, I told my class about this charitable man and the dog that brought him bread while he lived in a hut away from other people due the infectious disease he contracted when helping many others at the time. However, no sooner did I mention that he was the patron saint of dogs, and you guessed it, the question was asked about whether or not dogs go to Heaven. The class was quick to point out that when God created a Heaven on earth before man had sinned, (the Garden of Eden), creatures were there too, so why not in Heaven?

They listed uninterruptedly that animals were created: to help people do their work; to bring joy and sometimes a healing of sorts to children in hospitals and to old people in nursing homes; to help farmers and labourers, and those with disabilities. They are also the friend of very lonely people, they are loyal and love their owners unconditionally. I listened to story after story about their dogs. I told them that I had read the **Autobiography** of Maria Valtorta who confirmed her own human need for animals in the absence of a loving mother, and how precious they were when she was ill.

She wrote:

'And then we look around with heavy hearts and faces bathed in tears - and instead of the absent or hostile gazes of our fellows, [we] encounter the faithful glances of lesser creatures. Then in place of the kiss denied us or given us treacherously by our neighbour, we encounter the sincere greeting of the animal. Then our hands, which uselessly reach out to embrace and caress, and were rejected, bend to caress the beasts which never reject [those] who love them [but the creatures] repay with the purity of affection. One who is happy does not know...but [those] who have never been happy know what comfort an animal means to a person [who is] alone in the worst [kind of] solitude - that of the heart...It should thus cause no amazement that I became so passionately attached to animals: birds, dogs, turtles, chickens, pigeons, rabbits...My companions at play and in solitude, companions that gave me more joy than dolls because they were "alive" and more sorrow because they died.' (***Autobiography pp. 54-55***).

When Maria was in pain and ill she wrote:

'At 3:00 a.m., I was awakened by such an atrocious pain...I could not speak, move or cry out. I was dying. My little dog who was sleeping on his bed in a corner of the room became aware of it and started to howl. He saved me, for Mother rushed in, Father rushed in, and they called a woman friend and a doctor.' (***Autobiography p. 205***).

'I got up with the greatest difficulty. My heart was in a fearful state. My head was spinning, and my legs were trembling - I was utterly broken...I left the house continuously leaning against the walls. Fortunately, the dairy shop was four doors away and there was no need to cross the street...I took my dog with me, thinking that if I fell down in the street, at least he would guard me.' (***Autobiography p. 328***).

We followed this by reading passages from the Bible that describe the wonder of Heaven, but in their humanness, and while still on their journey to know and love God, the class could not imagine Heaven being complete without their pets. I tried to explain that a very learned person once said that as much as we love and need our pets on earth, God gave them to us to fulfill an emptiness within us or a need, just as they had listed, but once we reach Heaven, we will feel so totally fulfilled in the presence of God, that we will have no need or desire for anything or anyone else. The class wondered what that would be like. We remained quiet for a while trying to imagine being totally consumed by God alone. It was hard to fathom...but as needy humans, we would continue to hope and trust God on this one...I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

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A Reader's Choice

Dear Valtorta Readers,

This [passage] was an answer to the sense of guilt I felt if I did not perform my ritual prayers, morning, evening or during the day. It told me that I was responding to my compulsion, not to a sense of a loving need to communicate with God...[After reading this passage], my answer to this is to work on not allowing myself to pray without a strong focus on ... talking with my whole self to God. If I fail, I apologise to God and try to understand what is not working, ask for assistance to pray meaningfully and sometimes have to admit that I am too tired, and pray for God to excuse me for the time being. **GILLIAN ANNWN, RINGWOOD, VICTORIA**

'Speak to your Father in the secrecy of your hearts and of your inner rooms. Leave outside everything that belongs to the world: eagerness to be noted and to edify, and the scruples of long prayers full of words, of monotonous, tepid words lacking love. [Honestly], get rid of standards in your prayers. There are some people who really waste many hours reciting a monologue only with their lips, which is a real soliloquy because not even the guardian angels listen to it; it is such a vain noise ... There are, in fact, some men who would not spend those hours any differently, not even if God appeared to them saying: "The salvation of the world depends on your leaving such a soulless manner of speech and going, shall we say, just to draw water from a well and pour it on to the ground for My sake and the sake of your fellow men." There are indeed many who believe that their monologue is more important than the kindness in receiving a visitor or the charity in helping a person in need. They are souls which have fallen into the idolatry of prayer. Prayer is an act of love. And one can love praying or baking bread, meditating or assisting a sick person, making a pilgrimage to the Temple or looking after the family, sacrificing a lamb or sacrificing one's desires, even the honest desire to concentrate on the Lord. It is sufficient for you to have your whole selves and all your actions impregnated with love. Be not afraid! The Father sees, understands, listens, grants. How many graces are granted for one single, true perfect sigh of love! How much wealth for an intimate sacrifice made with love.' **(The Poem Vol. 2 pp. 151-2; The Gospel Vol. 3 pp.106-7)**

(If you would like to contribute to the **Reader's Choice** column, please send the reference to catherine@valtorta.org.au and explain in 80 words or less why the chosen passage is so meaningful to you.)

Stephen's Update

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Since the last Bulletin, there has been a new Maria Valtorta **Summa & Encyclopaedia e-book edition**, which encompasses a number of additions, corrections and updates. Also, the **Valtorta app** has received a number of updates and improvements, most especially, the new iPhone version which was recently released. However, the most notable Valtorta-related update of recent times has been the complete overhaul of the **Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website**. It is entirely new in design and organization which I think will serve the needs of visitors much better. It also has a few new tabs. Please do not hesitate to send me feedback about the website or e-book, including any suggestions for improvements or desired topics/features. Lastly, please visit the "How You Can Help" page on our website and let us know if you, or anyone you know, can be of any assistance in areas listed.

http://www.valtorta.org.au/How_You_Can_Help.html

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

Patrick's Forum

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Topics per month on the Forum are:

SEPTEMBER: Our Lady's Seven Sorrows

OCTOBER: The Holy Rosary

NOVEMBER: Purgatory

Please join me. <http://mariavaltortabc.forumotion.com/>

Patrick Jee

(For details and step-by-step instructions on how to join this Forum, contact me - patrick@valtorta.org.au)

Quarterly Specials

The following items are available at special prices (AUD + postage) this quarter:

1. **The End of Times Prophecies** 92p (now \$9.00)
2. **Praying the Rosary** (pocket book) 64p.(now \$7.50)
3. **ABBA! FATHER!** 36p. (still \$2.25 by popular demand)
4. **100 Selected Parables** from MV writings (111p.) (now \$17.50)
5. **Why is Mary Crying?** CD (MP3) 12 hours (now \$15.00)

FYI

A movie about Maria Valtorta.

A young director, Fernando Muraca visited Dr. Pisani at the CEV (Maria Valtorta Foundation in Italy), to whom he sent the following letter a few days later:

*'... As a director and scriptwriter, I have worked on screenplays and films such as: Fatima, Saint Joseph, Mary Magdalene, Saint Thomas, Padre Pio and others...Some of my friends are really insistent on the possibility and the need to make a film about Maria Valtorta. After reading the **Autobiography** carefully, I can honestly say that this is not only possible but that it is certainly viable. The life of Mary of the Cross - as she was called - has all the necessary ingredients for a film, and for publicising the Gospels with the deeper meaning that they may have on human experience. While reading the **Autobiography**, I took copious notes from which I could write a screenplay, which is the first step in making a film...I am willing to make a film about Maria Valtorta because there is something about her spiritual journey that has greatly impressed me. Her mystical experience led her to discern the very moment that Jesus suffered the most - when he felt abandoned by the Father and shouted: "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" [**Autobiography**, pp.304-5]. Valtorta noted that the pinnacle of pain for the Son of God was in Gethsemane. Through this, Maria Valtorta became credible in my eyes and I was totally convinced.*

I consent that my letter be published on the Valtorta Foundation website or wherever you feel is most beneficial in order to raise the necessary funds to make this film ...and if this film is to be made, certainly someone will come forward ...As for my part, if Providence wants a film about Maria Valtorta, then I am not going to turn my back on it.'

With heartfelt regards, Fernando Muraca.

(Bolletino Valtortiano No. 89)

Letters

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

I received an email from a friend here in Canada concerning your website. I used to visit Bishop Roman Danylak at his home in Toronto while he was alive. It was the Bishop that aroused in me a love for Maria Valtorta's divinely inspired work. I will be forever grateful to him for that. I am an enthusiastic supporter of Maria Valtorta. I began reading her works in 2006. I must have read her 'Poem' about seven times. **GARY LEGAULT, CANADA**

Thank you for your prayers for the Maria Valtorta Bookstall at the Auckland Eucharistic Convention 2015. After years of trying and being refused, I felt very blessed to have been given permission, and pleased with how it went...because it introduced Maria Valtorta to many people who had not heard of her. It was also lovely to meet long-time members of the Readers' Group who introduced themselves, so I was able to put a face to the names with whom I have communicated for quite some years. I feel a special oneness with M.V. Readers. While at the Convention, it

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was brought to my notice by a few people that someone had told them the Maria Valtorta writings were not Church-approved, so that made them weary of reading the Works...I was able to hand them some written pages to reassure them, and I know this helped some people. The thought comes that I should try to find a way to let all Priests know that the Church has approved the publishing, promoting and reading of the Valtorta works by faithful Catholics. I hope to have a bookstall at the Convention again next year.

GWEN STORY, NEW ZEALAND

[Gwen Story is our NZ agent. The Appendix will certainly be useful -Ed]

...I first heard about the *Poem of The Man God* through the Medjugorje Prayer Group which I attended every Friday. I remember that originally, we could only get the booklets and Volume 1 because the books were still in the process of being translated into English. I was totally entranced with the Work. Being a visual person, the writing really built up pictures for me and has helped me with my praying. The Rosary Mysteries are especially vivid for me now. I've also found that Gospel stories are much more understandable. It took years to get all five volumes, but boy, were they worth the wait! I left that set with a family member who was hooked on them too and bought my second set (husband paid for them as a birthday present!) several years later. However, the third set (now *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*) I bought more recently from America. So, how glad am I that I can now get them here! I have to say that there is a down-side to having read and re-read the books and that is, when the Parish Priest starts giving a homily on a well-known Gospel reading, I sometimes feel like standing up and saying, "But that's not how it happened!" I could go on and on! Those books helped me to get to know Jesus, Mary and a lot of other people much better. They became real people instead of just names. As you can see, I love those books!

BARBARA HANCOCK, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

[Perhaps Barbara could show her priest the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website, which has a free App which gives the Sunday Gospel readings for the week and the Valtorta equivalent -Ed]

I grew up in the fifties and sixties. So often I would think, 'If only I could sit down with God and find out what He REALLY thinks.' It was such a confusing time. The *Poem* was the answer to that prayer. I started reading, loving, praying and studying the *Poem* when my daughter was in first grade. She is now 33. The original set is in tatters. The set I gave to my Mom, that I got back when she died, is worn but intact. I think your apostolate is wonderful. I have been somewhat hesitant to [lend out] these books. They are sacred, and so much of what is sacred is now trampled on.

STEPHANIE NARDUCCI, USA

It took me quite a while to read *the Poem* through the first time. I got a second-edition printing of the books several months ago and I have almost finished the third one. We are ranchers/farmers, so there are lots of days that I don't get any reading done, but when I get back at it, I try to get several chapters read at a time. I can honestly say they are the MOST inspirational books I have ever read! Love them! We went on a pilgrimage to a community near Birmingham in 2011 that is totally consecrated to Our Lady of Medjugorje...and that's where I first heard of *the Poem*. A few weeks back, we had a guest speaker come to our parish and talk on the Shroud of Turin... afterwards I asked him if he had ever read Maria Valtorta's works and he said he'd heard of her, so I passed on the information from Stephen Austin's "*Summa & Encyclopedia*" on her writings about the Shroud, and he was going to read it...I guess we are to trust in God's timing.

KELLY SCHROER NELSON, NEBRASKA, USA

Many years ago, I was part of a small group of Malvern ladies that met regularly for many years at each other's places to share our love of the writings of Maria Valtorta. I know that, at the time, I had been away from the church for about 10 years and, on

seeking to re-enter, I received what many would call a "born-again" experience. I was on fire to learn more and experience more of my faith. God works in amazing ways... I was visiting the Centre for Peace, a bookstore run by the LeGrand family, when I noticed the books *The Poem of the Man-God*. I was working part-time but I gradually bought all 5 volumes. I started at the beginning - Volume One but then, as I listened to the Sunday readings at Mass, I would go home and pray for Our Lord to find me that passage in *the Poem*. I always found it, and it opened up the whole Gospel reading to me! I could not wait to read more. I found that I was travelling alongside the apostles, listening to their conversations and those of Jesus. I became part of the journey and felt that I knew the apostles personally. I now saw the villages, the terrain, the people and the customs. I was present at the birth of Jesus, witnessed miracles, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. Never did I find that any part of these accounts contradicted the gospels. After a while, I realised I was studying the scriptures in more detail. I don't read much of *The Poem* these days except to help me meditate at Easter and Christmas. After so many years, the group of ladies disbanded: some died, one moved away. I have never let the books out of my possession as I value them too highly... One lady, now deceased, left her volumes to her granddaughter in the hope that she would read them one day.

SUE BAXTER, MALVERN, VICTORIA

I was wondering if you know of anyone who is writing a screenplay based on *The Poem of the Man-God* or if anyone has obtained permission from the publisher to do so. As you can imagine, it would be an overwhelming project. But perhaps broken into segments, it might be more doable. The *Poem* itself reads like a movie and that was what originally gave me the idea, aside from the fact that it would be wonderful for everyone to get a chance to see the truth. I have no official screenplay-writing experience, but have been writing all my life and feel I could work my way through it. I look forward to getting the next Bulletin Thanks.

GORDON CURRY, TEXAS, USA.

[The FYI column is the only information we have to date. So many Readers share this same hope. Keep us posted. -Ed]

Rest In Peace

† **Kevin McCourt** – a former Qantas pilot, died 20 July, aged 67 after a long illness. Husband of Sharon from Alexandra Headland, Queensland. He died peacefully at home in Sharon's arms.

† **Mother of Fr. Edgar** died in St Francis Hospital near Chicago. She was "the world's most beautiful girl". [Fr. Edgar led our group to Italy for Maria's 50th anniversary.]

Please note: Those receiving hard-copy bulletins will receive an Appendix consisting of 3 pages from **the Summa & Encyclopedia pp. 553-9**. Those who receive it by email will have all 7 pages - also available on our website for everyone.

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 every 3 months. A subscription of \$12.00 per year is requested (a little extra if mailed overseas, and no charge for priests and religious). E-mail copies of the bulletins, supplements and catalogue are free and are also available online at our website.

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 on our journey to holiness.

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