

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 80 – December 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,

The response to the **Appendix** attached to **Supplement No. 79** has been very gratifying. I received so many calls and messages from people expressing their joy, relief, confidence and peace of mind with that document. For years, people have been able to discern that these writings were from God, and that they were permitted to read them because they were not contrary to the faith and morals of the Catholic Church, not to mention their fruits. However, the **Appendix** affirmed and empowered them and they, in return, could now validate their conviction of the authenticity of Maria Valtorta's Works with this A4 list to others. I could truly feel the smiles and the sighs through the phone.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation must go to our team member, Stephen Austin, for the months of research, for the passion and dedication that he put into his work, **A Summa and Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Works**, which is available free on this website.

In the previous **Bulletin**, the **Appendix** listed the people who approved the Works. Do visit this e-book which also lists the reasons why this work is so accurate and such a masterpiece. The chapter titled **Proof by Geography and Topography and Archaeology** (*The Summa* pp.178-191) contains detailed and invaluable information about these Works, which is user-friendly with a comprehensive index. It is a marvel to read.

It is also a pleasure to further congratulate Stephen on this work because it has been recognised by the Valtorta Foundation in Italy (Centro Editoriale Valtortiano) to be such an invaluable work that they have asked for Stephen's permission to add it to their Index, which is something that very few people are given the honour. In fact, the CEV intends to make this work available on their website, and they want to translate it into many other languages. I am happy to inform you that one section has already been completed in Italian. So please continue to pray for Stephen and for this apostolate so that Maria's Works will reach so many more people worldwide.

Next year will be the 55th anniversary of Maria Valtorta's death, and it is our intention to organise a Weekend conference in Melbourne in October 2016. The cost will include accommodation and meals, but we are still deciding on a venue to facilitate those arriving at Melbourne airport. This choice of venue will be determined by the number of people interested. If there is a possibility that you may be able to attend, could you please e-mail me and let me know if you are from Melbourne,

interstate or overseas. Our aim is to reduce your expenses from the time you arrive as much as possible.

Initially, I was labouring on which theme to explore for the **Supplement**, but with Christmas approaching and with the response of my classes, the decision was made: **Jesus and His Shepherds**. However, it soon became overwhelming because the passages about the Shepherds were so numerous that I did not want to abbreviate any part of them, or else the impact would be affected. What do I do with only 4 pages of the **Supplement** to work with in total? Problem solved. In this issue, there is **Part 1**, which consists of the visit of the 12 Shepherds to Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and then Jesus' emotion-filled visit to each of them at the start of His ministry. The next issue, **Part 2**, will consist of passages of the Shepherds who were present at the Passion and Death of Jesus, and then Jesus appearing to them after His resurrection, which will be more appropriate to the Good Friday/Easter Sunday season. Let me tell you that these Works are just so precious and valued that I have a responsibility to do them justice as I know many of you lend these out to others, and that initial contact is vital with new readers.

We wish you all a joyful and holy Christmas filled with the same love, hope and perseverance that the Shepherds felt and maintained during those 30 years that they did not see Jesus.

Growing in faith,
Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUING ITS BEGINNINGS...

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

In the previous issue, I described an early attack I experienced about Maria Valtorta's authenticity, and a remarkable "word of knowledge" I received before the Blessed Sacrament, which reassured me that her writings were true. In this account, I describe two preliminary discoveries, which preceded a 20-year experience with Maria's writings.

My first readings of the five volumes of **The Poem of the Man-God** took about nine months, at a time when I was employed as a research Town Planner in the outer suburbs of Melbourne. In true research style, I took copious notes which are still bundled up in my bookcase, but which I have not visited since. Some of the paragraphs and passages impressed me so much that I did not dare abbreviate them. (Nonetheless, they later served as a preliminary means of establishing the first edition of **A Pilgrim's Guide to The Poem of the Man-God**.)

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My second reading took about six months, and at its end, two discoveries occurred.

The first discovery came from reading a passage (*The Poem* Vol. 5 p. 849; *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* Vol.10 pp. 415-6) in which Jesus said:

“...at times God allows His chosen ones to fall, not because He likes to see them fall, but because a greater future advantage may come from a fall. So offer your hands to those who fall, because you do not know whether that fall is the resolute crisis of an illness that dies for ever, leaving in the blood a purification that brings about health. In our case: that brings about holiness...”

When I read that passage, I remember sobbing and sobbing – I think more than at any other time since while reading Maria’s writings. Why? I believe now that it was because of an impulse from the Holy Spirit – concerning a future involvement with these writings, which I did not have the slightest knowledge about at that time – and concerning my (then) marriage situation.

My second discovery was the realisation that in both my readings of *The Poem*, I had not taken a single note about the indissolubility of marriage. [A background note: my first marriage had been celebrated in Perth many years previously, and I was now in a second marriage, undertaken outside the Church.] This very discovery led to the formation of a valid conscience, and consequently, the happy resolution of my marriage situation, which took about 18 months (but that’s another story for another time).

In a later bulletin, I will describe the beginnings of my passing on some compilations and tools to Valtorta lovers in Australia and other places to help with their readings.

May God bless and keep you all.
David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE’S CLASSROOM

Dear Valtorta Readers,

We were just completing a unit on how Mary is relevant in our lives today, and I showed the class a DVD about Marian apparitions. Without prompting, the students noted that so many of the visionaries were children, poor or from the country, and how these very same people managed to successfully spread the messages throughout the world with so much conviction. With the end of the school year and Christmas approaching, they remembered that the Shepherds were visionaries too, and noted that they were honest men who led a simple, albeit, a hard life when an angel appeared to them. So I thought we could have a random lesson on the Shepherds.

Just as all these humble people have been honoured with Marian apparitions, the shepherds were also blessed with the appearance of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus. So we read the bible passage describing the encounter with the Shepherds, and then we read from *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*. While it was being read, the class was able to visualise the scene so clearly. They loved the part where the youngest shepherd was being ribbed by the others for 'seeing' things and that he should be sent home to be with the women. They even nudged him to enter the stable first.

But there was more. I informed them that the disciple to replace Judas was Matthias (his original name was Tobias but he changed it to Matthias or Matthew, depending on the translation,

after his father who had died). To think, he was one of those very same original Shepherds. They could see that Jesus loved the

Shepherds so much that during His 3-year ministry, He went to find them all. Jesus even wanted to know where the graves were of those who had died. So we read one more passage from *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* about this encounter. The class was so impressed by this. They loved to hear that Jesus did value those who loved Him because they were one of the first to pay homage to Him as the Messiah with such heartfelt love and respect.

But there was more. I informed them that the shepherds were present at Jesus’ Passion and Crucifixion. We looked at that small passage which was agonising to read – my eyes welled up and the class could hear the emotion in my voice.

But there was more. I informed them that Jesus appeared to those very same Shepherds who were still alive after His resurrection. So I read them one more passage from Maria’s Works about this encounter.

By the end of this lesson, Jesus was presented as a person, who had really lived, from birth to His resurrection, as someone who stepped out of the pages and was right there before them. He was brought to life by Maria’s description of that era, that place and the dialogue with those beautiful men.

This lesson was ageless - my junior and senior classes responded the same way because they all value friendship and that sense that Jesus actually took the time to do such a loving thing.

And through the Shepherds’ openly expressed enjoyment, my heart filled with love too – for Jesus and for Maria Valtorta who offered herself as a victim for our benefit today.

The class asked me where I got this great information from, so I informed them that God blessed us with the writings of many great people such as Anne Catherine Emmerich, St. Bridget of Sweden, Maria Baij and Maria of Agreda, but that Maria Valtorta was my favourite.

I planted the seed.
Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

A READER’S CHOICE

Dear Readers,

When I read this passage, I was so enlightened and touched by Jesus’ loving mercy towards Judas on the eve of His death. What great love is felt as He pleads for a sinner in such a private and personal way, begging for the love of a sinner, feeling such pain and humility! In our lives, we have very difficult people/family/society to deal with; and like Jesus, we cry, pray and beg for their conversion, sometimes with disappointing results. Jesus had to suffer the most intense pain over Judas’ pride and self-will... Remembering how Jesus turned to His Mother for her help in His pain, Mary immediately joined Her Son in prayer for Judas without hesitation – they were united in prayer. I too turn and beg for Mother Mary’s maternal help and support to sustain my weaknesses and trials/attacks ... in our very broken lost world.

MARIE WILLIAMS, BORONIA, VICTORIA

«...Judas, look at Me! Before long My Blood will be shed for the sins of men. Not one drop will be left in My veins. The clods of earth, the grass, the garments of My persecutors and Mine... the wood, the iron, the ropes, the thorns of the nabaca... and the spirits awaiting salvation will drink of it... You alone do not want to drink it? I would give all this Blood of Mine for you only. You

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are My friend. How willingly one dies for one's friend! To save him! One says: "I shall die. But I shall continue to live in the friend to whom I gave life". Like a father, like a mother, who continue to live in their offspring after they have passed away. Judas, I implore you! I am not asking for anything else in this eve of My death. A convict is granted a last grace by his judges and also by his enemies, and his last wish is satisfied. I ask you not to be damned. I do not ask so much Heaven as I ask you and your will... Think of your mother, Judas. What will your mother be afterwards? And the name of your family? I appeal to your pride, which is as bold as ever, to defend you from dishonour. Do not disgrace yourself, Judas. Consider: years and ages will go by, kingdoms and empires will fall, the stars will lose their brightness, the configuration of the Earth will change, and you will always be Judas, as Cain is always Cain, if you persist in your sin...you will always be Judas, the cursed greatest culprit, if you do not mend your ways. I will descend to free the spirits from Limbo, I will lead multitudes of them out of Purgatory, and you... I shall not be able to take you where I am...Judas, I am going to die, I am going happily, because the hour I have been awaiting for millennia has come: the hour to reconcile men to their Father. I shall not reconcile many of them. But the number of those saved, whom I shall contemplate when dying, will console Me for the torture of dying in vain for so many. But, I tell you, it will be dreadful to see you, My apostle and friend, among the latter. Do not give Me such a cruel pain!...I want to save you, Judas. Look. We are going down to the river. Tomorrow at dawn, when everybody is still sleeping, we will cross it, the two of us, and you will go to Bozrah, to Arbela, to Aera, wherever you wish. You know the houses of the disciples. At Bozrah, look for Joachim and Mary, the woman I cured of leprosy. I will give you a note for them. I will say that a quiet rest in different air is necessary for your health. It is the truth, unfortunately, because your spirit is diseased and the air of Jerusalem would be lethal to you. But they will think that your body is ill. You will remain there until I come to take you away... But if you listen to Me, if you go to Bozrah, I will send word to your mother and will have her brought to you, as being so good, she may help you to recover. Believe Me, we are the only ones to love you thus, without limit. ... three on the Earth: your mother, My Mother and I. Make us happy, Judas! ...Your thought is a thought of pride. In pride, there is still Satan. Be humble, Judas. Grasp this hand that is offered to you in a friendly way. Take shelter in this heart that opens to protect you. Here, with Me, Satan could do you no harm. »

« I have tried to be with You... I have descended lower and lower... It is useless! »

«Do not say that! Do not say that! React against discouragement. God can do everything. Cling to God. Judas! Judas! » ...Jesus then says to His disciple: « I will not sleep tonight. I will pray and wait for you... May God speak to your heart. Listen to Him...I will remain here, where I am now, to pray. Until dawn...Remember that. » Judas does not reply to Him. ... He holds back His Mother saying to Her: « I am staying to pray for Judas, Mother. Will You help Me, too? »

« Yes, I will, Son. Is his good will reviving? »

« No, Mother. But we must act as if... Heaven can do everything, Mother! » «... Will You let me stay with You, Jesus? We will pray together... and I shall have You for Me alone all those hours... »

« Yes, stay with Me, Mother. »

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Firstly, since the last *Bulletin*, there has been a new *Valtorta Summa & Encyclopedia* e-book edition, which encompasses a number of additions, corrections and updates.

Secondly, the *Valtorta app* has received a number of updates and improvements, including a new audio feature where you can listen to a recording of the canonized Gospel readings for that

Sunday, followed by the passage from *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* that corresponds to that same Gospel reading. The audio feature is available in both the English and Italian versions of the app.

The Valtorta app was also just recently released in French for the first time, so now it is available in English, Italian, Spanish and French. These all work on both Android smart phones and tablets, as well as iPhones and iPads.

Thirdly, in addition to our website offerings, the Valtorta app, our books/booklets/audio, the *Valtorta Summa & Encyclopedia* e-book and our Bulletins, there are also a number of other Valtorta projects in the works, and if you would like to participate or offer your expertise in any way, please let us know.

Finally, and most importantly, we would love to hear about your own experiences with Valtorta's writings and how it has impacted your life and the lives of others you know. So if you have a testimony or insights that you would like to share with other Valtorta fans, please don't hesitate to send them our way so that we can share them with others in these Bulletins in the **Letters** section or **A Reader's Choice**.

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

QUARTERLY SPECIALS

As Christmas is a time of love, prayer and being with family and friends, the following items have been made available at special prices this quarter. Please contact us (via phone or e-mail) for postage costs. All items are listed in Australian dollars.

1. *The Prayer Life and Teachings of Jesus and Mary* 60p (now \$3.30)
2. *The Nativity, the Shepherds and The Three Wise Men* 36p.(now \$3.00)
3. *Celebrating Christmas with the Bethlehem Shepherds.* 28p. (\$2.00)
4. *100 Selected Parables* from MV writings (111p.) (still \$17.50 by popular demand)
5. *The Many Meanings of Love* (now \$10.00)

We have a few of Maria Valtorta's works available in Italian and French. Please contact me for further information.

BOOK REVIEW

Dear Readers,

A new book that was released a few months ago is called *Quello che i Vangeli non dicono - le private rivelazioni a Maria Valtorta (What the Gospels do not say - private revelations to Maria Valtorta)* by Dr. Emilio Pisani, the director and publisher of the works of Maria Valtorta in Italy.

As this book is only available in Italian, I thought I would share the contents with you; to take you back to the time when you had questions but had not yet read Maria Valtorta's Works.

Since reading Maria's Works, we are no longer left to wonder because we have read a more detailed account of these very scenes. Our questions have been answered. In fact, when we hear the Sunday gospel at Mass, we enjoy the fullness of that reading because Maria's works have given us the details and the insight that gives us a full picture. Like David Murray's Sunday Gospels audio CDs, where the canonised gospel is read followed by the Valtorta passage, Dr. Emilio Pisani has done a similar thing very effectively in his book.

The book presents 21 questions people have asked about events or people in the Gospel. In this edition of the bulletin, I

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wish to present three, because the chosen questions are interesting to contemplate.

The first question is: *Cosa scriveva Gesù con il dito sulla terra? (What did Jesus write on the ground with his finger?)*

Many are curious about this, as we once were. In short, Jesus wrote their specific sins and watched them walk away one-by-one. (*John* 8:1-11; *The Poem* Vol. 4 p.502; *The Gospel* Vol. 7 p. 494)

The second question is: *Come potè Giuda di Keriot diventare discepolo di Gesù? (How could Judas have become Jesus' disciple?)*

It is interesting that the bible shows Jesus calling all the disciples except Judas. If we revisit *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, it is evident that it was Judas himself who insisted on joining the group, even when Jesus sent him away to think more on it. Judas was very persistent. (*The Poem* Vol. 1 p. 292; *The Gospel* Vol. 1 p.346)

The third question is: *Di quale gioia il Battista sussultò nel grembo della madre? (What Joy was it that made John the Baptist leap in his mother's womb?)*

This is another meaningful passage with an equally curious question. When Mary greets Elizabeth, not only is Elisabeth enlightened on the birth of the Messiah, but John is pre-sanctified with his mission in life to be the precursor of Jesus. (*Luke* 1: 39-45; *The Poem* Vol. 1 p.109; *The Gospel* Vol. 1 p.125)

This book is certainly worth keeping in mind as a gift if you have native friends, or as another way of introducing Italian-speaking people to the works of Maria Valtorta. Available only in Italian from Italy at this stage.

To be continued next quarterly.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

URGENT - CAN YOU HELP?

I have the master copy of the audio cassettes of the **Gospel-Meditated Rosary** but unfortunately, the **Luminous** mystery cassette no longer plays. Yes, cassette. I need to borrow a copy of this cassette from a reader to make a copy (I will reimburse all costs). I would greatly appreciate it if anyone can help.

If anyone is missing a volume of the *Poem of the Man-God*, please e-mail me the one you need, as I am always on the lookout for new/used books to help people replace their prized volume that they lent out or have lost.

FYI - The Digitalisation of Maria's Original Manuscripts

An Outline on the Manuscripts

The original manuscripts are the most valuable part of Valtorta's heritage. They are irreplaceable documents as a source of study. They show in what way and by what means Maria Valtorta wrote. The Centro Editoriale Valtortiano (CEV) in Italy has already published the Maria Valtorta notebooks catalogue that describes the 122 notebooks, one by one in every detail: their appearance, size, number of pages and their contents with reference to the printed books. In the appendix of this catalogue, it reproduces sample copies of some of the covers of the original notebooks, in addition to some pages of her handwritten manuscript.

The Conservation Project

At present, the 122 autographed notebooks are carefully stored in a suitable climatic environment, protected from light and dust. However, it is not possible to completely block the natural deterioration process that will make the scripts fade beyond repair. Only digitalisation can make it easy to refer to these manuscripts without any damage, and form an electronic archive

that can be accessed with the available technologies, and with the necessary permission.

The Costs of the Project

Financially maintaining this project is challenging and demanding for the CEV Foundation with an estimated cost around 30,000 Euros. The delicate condition of the original notebooks, and their historical and cultural importance necessitates all handling to be done on the very premises of the Foundation, in complete security ... The large number of manuscript pages to be scanned requires the purchase or rental of suitable equipment.

We hope that the CEV Foundation receives the necessary financial support for this project. We will keep you posted. (Article contributed by Stephen Austin and translated from the Italian by Catherine Loft)

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

Thank you for the recent **Bulletin** and **Supplement**. I enjoyed them immensely. But I was so relieved to read the **Appendix!** I have always known these works to be true, but always felt a bit intimidated, hesitant and challenged when I invited people to read the booklets and they questioned me further about the approvals, which I didn't know much about... Well, I will not feel like that any longer. I will continue inviting people to read these works, and especially the booklets with a copy of the **Appendix!** Then more people might want to read them... like the people I see in my Church community, or more priests and religious. Stephen, I thank you most sincerely for your labour of love, and may God bless you.

JOSEPH MARSHALL, PORT MELBOURNE, VIC

What an amazing group of people on that List of Approvals (**Appendix**) who love the works of Maria Valtorta just as much as we do! Maybe the names of all us Readers belong on that list too! Thank you, Stephen. **MARY BINGHAM, MILL PARK, VIC.**

In our prayer for the beatification and canonisation of Maria Valtorta, (**Bulletin** No. 79), there is a line that says,

"...see to it that her works are freely propagated and read throughout the world

and take care of everything that may obstruct this request..."

Well, the Lord is certainly working through Stephen Austin. His dedication in producing *the Valtorta Summa* has certainly taken care of one major obstacle with his recent **Appendix**. We are so honoured to have him on our team. –Editor

REST IN PEACE

† **Robert Gebert** – a Reader from Esperance, WA. We thank the Recherche Rotary Hostel for informing us.

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.]