

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 82 – JUNE 2016

**'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,

On the Church calendar, May is the month of Mary where we just celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady Help of Christians (Patron Saint of Australia) and the Visitation of The Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Mother's Day also took place so the theme of this Bulletin and Supplement is Motherhood.

Supplement no. 82: This edition consists of passages from Maria Valtorta's writings on the numerous mothers presented: Maria Valtorta's mother, Iside Fioravanti; Anne, mother of Our Lady; Mary, mother of Judas Iscariot; Mary, mother of Jesus; and Mary of Alphaeus, mother of James, John, Judas [Jude Thaddeus], Joseph and Simon. Each passage does not always reflect a happy relationship, but it certainly captures the joys and difficulties of Motherhood. There were so many from which to choose that it pained me not to be able to include more.

Maria Valtorta Conference: A two-day Conference for the 55th anniversary of Maria Valtorta's death will take place Saturday 22-Sunday 23 October 2016 from 9.00 am -5.00 pm. The venue is - **Pallottine Missionary College**, 85 Studley Park Road, Kew. VIC. 3101. The cost will be \$40 per day or \$70 for both days. People are invited to attend one or both sessions and to bring your own lunch. (Morning & Afternoon tea will be provided.) People are welcome to turn up on the day. However, for printing and organisational purposes, advanced bookings and payment is preferred. For any accommodation and commuting enquiries, for offers to billet interstate and overseas visitors, or for bookings and payment, please contact David at your earliest convenience by e-mail david@valtorta.org.au or call him within Australia on (03) 9879 7853 or international calls +61 3 9879 7853

A program of the Conference will be included in the September Bulletin

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

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUING ITS BEGINNINGS...

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

In this instalment, I continue stories from my eighteen years "on the road" in various countries, promoting the writings of Maria Valtorta. Once, while in Birmingham, Alabama, I visited the worldwide Catholic television station EWTN, and met up with Father Mitch Pacwa – one of its leading presenters. Father Mitch was widely known as an opponent of Maria Valtorta's writings. This has adversely affected many potential readers, and his arguments have been strongly opposed in Valtorta circles for a number of years. While avoiding getting into a debate with him, I told him I had two concerns with his position. Firstly, I said that his stance was no more than an opinion, and opposite to that of many Catholic bishops – including Bishop Roman Danylak in Toronto, Canada. Secondly, I was concerned that he had been professing his opinion to his worldwide television audience, without any contrary argument being available on his network. At the end of our conversation, he kindly drove me to the airport and gave me his blessing at the curbside.

Spending time on a farm near Marmora in Canada – which was visited by pilgrims from many places who experienced many miraculous happenings there - it was just after midnight on 14 September, the Feast of the Veneration of the Cross and the beginning of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. A group of us had just completed the Stations of the Cross on a nearby hill, and I looked up to the sky and saw – in some streaky clouds next to the moon – the perfect outline of a large Cross. Praise the Lord!

On a visit to my dear friend Bishop Danylak in Toronto, I was with a group of people crossing an extremely busy road opposite his house. As an Aussie where we drive on the left-hand side of the road, I looked to the right for oncoming traffic, and was about to step off the curb – when somebody grabbed me from behind. Phew!

While in North America, I had experiences of having my talks being simultaneously translated on two separate occasions – to a Spanish-speaking group in Los Angeles, and to a French-speaking group in Montreal.

On my last morning while visiting my good friend, Sister Christine Kabumbu in Zambia, Africa, I attended a Mass

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celebrated by a Jesuit priest (he and I were the only white people there). Suddenly, after Communion, many of the Zambian congregation broke out into some of the most lovely 3-part harmony I have ever listened to. Leaving the church a little later, I stood aside and just wept. On one of a number of visits I've made to Ireland - looked after by Eileen Aitkin from Ardee, County Dublin - a man cornered me after we sang "How Great Thou Art", and criticised me for singing "that Protestant hymn". Glory be!

Many times on my way to Ireland, I've had to change planes at Heathrow. I'd often wondered about "valtortling" in England, and at the end of 2013, I finally went there with my good friend Patrick Jee. I had this crazy idea of meeting up with a top Anglican, a top Rabbi, and a top Ordinariate (former Anglican) priest. The first two possibilities didn't eventuate. However - by a remarkable coincidence - we just happened to meet with Mgr. Keith Newton, the leader of eighty or so Ordinariate priests in England, at a public information meeting in Folkestone, near Dover. He was formerly an Anglican bishop, who had met with Pope Benedict a few years earlier, to help set up the Ordinariate. The next day we met him again in London, where he was Parish Priest of an 18th century church, and where his wife helped out with a cup of tea.

While in London at this time, I'd had high hopes of making a big splash with Maria Valtorta's writings. I made a pencil booking for a meeting at a large conference centre in the basement of Westminster Cathedral, but the Archbishop of Westminster stipulated that at the beginning and at the end, we had to disclaim any suggestion that her writings were divinely inspired. I couldn't comply, so this meeting fell through. I tried to advertise in the Catholic newspapers, but that was refused. I tried many phone numbers I'd been given, and I finally settled for a meeting at a North London church in a room which held 100 people. On the day, 10 people turned up. Nonetheless, we were delighted with the presence of a newly ordained priest - Father Martin Plunkett - who had read all 5 volumes of *The Poem of the Man-God* during his novitiate - and he gave us a wonderful blessing.

This London visit helped me realise that my advancing years had caught up with me, and it was time to pass the Readers' Group baton to someone else, more qualified than myself in this more modern and electronic age, to "spread the word".

Many times during these past years, a Valtorta reader has told me "what a wonderful job you've been doing..." My reply has usually been: "In relation to the extraordinary gifts I've been given with Maria Valtorta's writings, maybe ten times more might have been expected of me". That will be for God to decide...

In the next bulletin, I'll talk about the various printed and audio productions the Readers' Group has made, from earliest to more recent times.

May God bless and keep you all.

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Valtorta Readers,

In this month of May, the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Mother's Day, I sought the opportunity to talk to the class about just how much Jesus loves us by having allowed His mother to visit people around the world over time, especially when a particular city or country was

undergoing physical or moral trials. So we talked about Our Lady of Fatima which was celebrated 13 May and how Mary, in a vision, took the children to hell, purgatory and heaven in order to show the world that they are really do exist, and that our choices in life will lead us to one of those places. However, Mary is always with us as a mother and

watches over us. I added that as Catholics, we do not worship her as many Protestants believe we do, but that we venerate her and ask her to join our simple prayers to hers and present them to God on our behalf.

God loves her so much that if it is for our good, He will grant her all her requests. So we read about the Wedding in Cana from the Bible where they ran out of wine and Jesus did not refuse his mother's request for a miracle - his first.

In another Valtorta passage, Peter wanted to be a father to Marjiam so much that he went to speak to Mary about it, who in turn, spoke to Jesus. So it was through her that he obtained his desire. In fact, Jesus said directly to this disciple that Peter had found the secret - that he could never deny his mother's wishes.

[Mary has just told Jesus that Peter would like to be the father of Marjiam and she has just persuaded Jesus to agree]

Ah! You are smiling now! So You are going to please Your Mother. Thank You, My Jesus. »

« Yes, let it be done, as You wish. » Jesus stands up and calls out loud: « Simon of Jonas: come here. »

Peter starts and rushes down the steps. « What do You want, Master? »

« Come here, you usurper and corrupter! »

« Me? Why? What have I done, Lord? »

« You have bribed My Mother. That is why you wanted to be alone [with her]. What shall I do with you? »

But Jesus smiles and Peter recovers confidence. « Oh! » he says. « You really frightened me! But now You are laughing... What do You want from me, Master? My life? I have but that, because You have taken everything... But if You want, I will give it to You. »

« I do not want to take anything from you. I want to give you something. But do not take advantage of your victory and do not disclose the secret to the others, you most artful fellow who defeats the Master by means of the weapon of His Mother's word. You will have the boy, but... »

Jesus can say no more, because Peter, who had knelt down, bounces to his feet and kisses the Master with such delight that he makes the words die on His lips.

« Thank Her, not Me. But remember that this must be of assistance to you, and not an impediment... »

« My Lord, You will not have to repent of the gift... Oh! Mary! May You be always blessed, You holy and good... » And Peter, who has fallen on his knees again, weeps, kissing Mary's hand... (The Poem Vol 2 pp.307-9; the Gospel Vol.3 pp.300-1)

Finally, we read the Bible again where Jesus, from the Cross, gives Mary to us as a mother. "[to John] Behold your mother. Woman, behold your son." (**John 19:26**)

At the end of the lesson, I had hoped that they saw our Holy Mother Mary, who is our mother and patron saint, as someone they could approach more.

So with encouragement, I ended the lesson with a prayer to our Blessed Mother asking her to watch over us, to help us, and to take our petitions to Jesus about something worrying us (we paused to name them). We cannot physically hug Mary, so their homework was to give their mother a hug. I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

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A READER'S CHOICE

Dear Readers,

This passage was selected for two reasons. The first is that a young and innocent son, Abel, is being accused of a wrong-doing and how his widowed mother, goes to great lengths to protect him and declare his innocence. Secondly, it illustrates that Jesus is compassionate, merciful and a Just Judge who didn't come to condemn but to save, and this is shown by the way He dealt with everyone involved in this incident.

Joe Mifsud, Buderim, Queensland

[Ed- Joe is a humble and tireless member who has been inviting people to taste and read Maria's works for many years]

« A son, [Abel, is] torn off his mother to be killed, and she is defending him like a hyena. But she is a woman against armed men » adds Simon Zealot.[..].

« I am going to her. » [says Jesus]

They turn right, then left, towards the town centre. It is now possible to see the excited tumultuous crowd pressing near Abel's house, and the heart-rending, inhuman, wild and at the same time pitiful shouting of a woman can be heard.

[...] The woman is still contending for her son with the guards, holding on with one hand, which is like an iron claw, to the ruin of the knocked down door, and to her son's belt with the other one, and she savagely bites anyone who tries to loosen her grip. Notwithstanding, they deal her many blows and pull her hair so cruelly as to throw her head back. When she does not bite, she shouts: « Leave him! Murderers! He's innocent! The night Joel was killed, he was in bed beside me! Murderers! Slanderers! Foul Perjurers! »

And the young man, whom the armed men are holding by the shoulders and dragging by the arms, turns round terror-stricken and shouts: « Mother, mother! Why must I die if I have not done anything? »

He is a handsome tall slender young man, with dark mild eyes, and dark wavy hair. His torn garment shows the young agile body of an adolescent.

Jesus with the help of those who accompany Him, pushes His way through the crowd, as compact as a rock, and reaches the pitiful group just at the moment when the exhausted woman is torn away from the door and dragged along the stony road, like a sack, tied to the body of her son. But that lasts for only a few yards. A more violent jerk tears the mother's hand off the young man's belt and the woman falls prone on the ground beating the road with her face, which bleeds profusely. But she gets up on her knees, stretching out her arms, while her son who is being dragged away swiftly ... frees his left arm and waves it, twisting round and shouting: « Mother! Goodbye! Remember, at least you, that I am innocent! ». The woman looks at him with staring eyes, she then faints and drops to the ground.

Jesus stops before the group of captors. « Stop for one moment. I order you! » His countenance allows no objection.

« Who are You? » aggressively asks a citizen in the group. « We do not know You. Move aside and let us go so that he may be killed before night. »

« I am a Rabbi. The greatest. In the name of Jehovah stop, or He will strike you by lightning ». In the meantime, He seems to be striking by lightning. « Who are the witnesses against this man? »

« I, him and him » replies the man who had spoken before.

« Your testimony is not valid because it is false. »

« How can You say that? We are ready to swear it. »

« Your oath is a sin. »

[...] « Watch how You speak! I am Aser... »

« And I am Jesus... I am Judge and Priest. Not only of this small portion of Israel, but of the whole of Israel and of the whole world. »

« Let's go, let's go! We are dealing with a mad man » says the other witness and he gives Jesus a vigorous push to draw Him aside.

« You shall not take another step » thunders Jesus ... « I am here. And I will give judgment. » Jesus' voice is so piercing that it sounds like a blare.

[...] « And this is My judgement. Give me a pinch of dust from the road and a drop of water in a jug. And while they are being brought to Me, you who are accusing, and you who are accused, reply to Me. Are you innocent, son? Say so frankly to Him Who is your Saviour. »

« I am, Lord. »

« Aser, can you swear that you have spoken but the truth? »

« I swear it. I have no reason to lie. I swear it by the altar. May fire descend from Heaven and burn me if I am not telling the truth. »

« Jacob, can you swear that you are sincere in accusing and that there is no secret motive urging you to lie? »

« I swear by Jehovah. Only the love for my slain friend induces me to speak. I have no personal grudge against him. »

« And you, servant, can you swear that you have told the truth? »

« I will swear it a thousand times, if necessary! My master, my poor master! » and he covers his head with his mantle.

« Good. Here is the water and here is the dust. And this is the word. "Holy Father and Most High God, pass judgment on truth through Me, so that life and honour may be given to the innocent man and to the anguished mother, and suitable punishment to those who are not innocent. But because of the grace, which I enjoy in Your eyes, let neither fire nor death, but a long expiation come to them who have committed sin". »

He says these words stretching His hand over the pitcher, as priests do at the altar, during Mass at offertory. He then dips His right hand into the pitcher and with His wet hand He sprays the four men under judgment and makes each drink a drop of water: first the young fellow and then the others. He then folds His arms across His chest and looks at them.

Also the crowds look, but after a few moments they utter a cry and throw themselves down, with their faces on the ground. The four men then, who are lined up, look at one another and shout in their turn: the young man out of amazement, the others out of horror because they see their faces covered with sudden leprosy, whereas the young fellow is immune from it.

The servant throws himself at the feet of Jesus, who steps aside, like everybody else, including the soldiers, and taking young Abel by the hand draws him away as well, so that he may not become contaminated near the three lepers. And the servant shouts: « No! No! Forgive me! I am a leper! They paid me to delay my master until evening, so that they could kill him on the desert road. They made me unshoe his mule on purpose. They instructed me how to lie saying that I had come ahead. Instead, I was with them killing him. And I will also tell You why they did it. Because Joel had found out that Jacob was in love with his young wife and because Aser wanted the mother of this young man and she refused him. So they made an agreement to get rid of Joel and Abel at the same time and then have a nice time with the women. I have told You everything. Cleanse me of my leprosy! Abel, you are good, pray for me! »

« Abel, go to your mother, so that when she comes round, she may see your face and thus come back to life happily. And you... I should say to you: "Let it be done to you what you have done". And it would be human justice. But I am entrusting you to a superhuman expiation. The leprosy, which you abhor, saves you from being seized and killed as you deserve. People of Bethlehem, step aside, open out, as the water of the sea did, and let these men go to their long imprisonment. A dreadful imprisonment! More dreadful than sudden death. Divine pity has granted them the possibility to make amends, if they wish so. Go! » (*The Poem Vol 2 pp.584-8; The Gospel Vol 4 pp.144-6*)

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STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

There are a number of new updates.

In March, Tim Fromann and I did a radio show interview with Dr. Anthony Ciuffo about Valtorta and her writings on a Catholic radio program which is known for being the most listened to show on WGBB, 1240 AM (the oldest radio station in Long Island, New York). You can listen to the radio interview here (scroll to the bottom of the page of this link to find it): <http://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-TV-Radio-Interviews.html>

Our website also has many brand new pages, including:

- Archbishop Carinci's Approval of Valtorta and Her Work (Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Rites from 1945 - 1960)
- Fr. Gabriel Roschini's Strong Approval of Valtorta and Her Work (Greatest Mariologist of the 20th Century)
- Bishop Venancio's Admiration and Approval of Valtorta's Work (Bishop of Fatima from 1954-1972)
- Bishop Johanan-Mariam Cazenave's Preface for the Book *The Valtorta Enigma*
- William F. Buckley, Jr.'s Devotion to the Italian Mystic Maria Valtorta
- Television and Radio Interviews about Valtorta
- Saint Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta
- Blessed Gabriel Allegra's Approval and Writings on Valtorta's Work (this is a link to these articles hosted on Br. Chrys's Valtorta website)

You can access all of these pages in the navbar on the left-hand side of our website. These articles are a great way to learn about these notable personas and their approval and thoughts about Valtorta's work, and to have readily available links to send to people.

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

QUARTERLY SELECTION

In honour of Mary and all mothers, the following items have been selected this quarter. Please contact us (via phone or e-mail) for **postage costs**. All items are listed in Australian dollars.

1. **Mary, Mother of the Redeemer & The Church 160p (\$18.00)**
2. **Audio: Why is Mary Crying (the audio book of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer & The Church)** MP3 12 hours (\$18.00)
3. **For the Love of Mary booklet** 32p. (\$3.00)
4. **Audio: For the Love of Mary** CD 73 minutes (\$5.50)
5. **The Poem of the Man-God** We have obtained copies of the following volumes at \$40.00 each plus postage: Volume 1, Volume 2, Volume 3 (2 copies), Volume 4, Volume 5 (2 copies – one which is intact but the edges when closed are stained for \$25.00). **Please note:** not sold as a set. Limit - one book per person to replace a volume they have misplaced or lost.)

6. **Italian Books:** We have a few of Maria Valtorta's works available in Italian. Please contact me for further information.

NEW RELEASE - BOOKLET

As this is the Year of Mercy and to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Maria Valtorta death, a booklet on ***Mercy and Justice from the writings of Maria's Writings*** has just been compiled by David Murray. At a cost of \$5.00, it will be available mid-June.

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

It is very pleasing that the Maria Valtorta bookstall at the 2016 Eucharistic Convention in Auckland, New Zealand, was so successful.

Many more Valtorta books were sold to both beginner readers and long-time Valtorta readers. An improvement from last year was to have an A4 handout about Maria Valtorta – many people hadn't heard of her and were only too happy to learn more about her.

It was interesting to hear some people say they had read *The Poem* but stopped doing so because they had been told it was not approved by the Church. When asked if they had enjoyed reading it, they all said yes – they loved reading it. So, many thanks to Stephen Austin who had written an article '*What is the Position of the Church on Maria Valtorta's Main Work*' [*the complete Summa is available on the website*] and also the '*List of Bishops who Have Approved, Endorsed, or Praised The Poem*'. The enquirers were all very thankful to receive this information, and it was so helpful to me to be able to give the handouts to them. It was a real treat to meet up again with some Readers' Group Members who were at the Convention – I always feel a special oneness with M.V. readers.

GWEN STORY, NEW ZEALAND

[Ed - Gwen is our agent in New Zealand and a remarkable worker in this apostolate of spreading the writings of Maria Valtorta]

[Ed – we are also grateful to Stephen for the priceless list of Approvals he researched and compiled. I am always receiving word from people on how valuable it is.]

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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.]