

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 83 SEPTEMBER 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 just as it is... whoever reads it will understand...'
– Pope Pius XII

EDITORIAL

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

In recent days, the Church calendar celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, a dogma that was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on 1 November 1950, in the apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* (the same pope who commanded Maria Valtorta's work to be published – see quote above). While it is not possible to know for certain, I always wonder if Pope Pius XII's reading of Maria's works influenced or contributed to his desire to research and define this dogma, even in the smallest way. After reading the Assumption passages from *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, (formerly *The Poem*), I can fully understand and appreciate the truth of this dogma.

Supplement No. 83: This edition consists of passages from Maria Valtorta's writings on the numerous children mentioned from that time. Jesus loves children and these passages describe His interaction with them. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus informs us, '*Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven*' (Mt 18:3 Douay-Rheims). Each passage certainly captures the joy of the children being with Jesus even amongst the hardship and difficulties experienced by these innocent creatures. There were so many from which to choose that, once again, it pained me to not be able to include more. A Readers' Guide to Maria's Other Writings, the Where is it? A Guide to the Gospel as Revealed to Me, and A Pilgrim's Guide to the Poem of the Man-God contain a list of references to the full extracts from the major works. In fact, I find these guides highly invaluable. Thank you, David.

Errata: In the last edition, (No. 82), I stated in the Editorial and in the title of one of the Supplement passages that Mary of Alphaeus had five sons. While I have always known that she had four, in my speed to meet a deadline, my re-reading of one passage caused me to rethink this number and, in my haste, I noted this inaccurately. Thank you to the reader who notified me of this (what about the rest of you?!). I greatly appreciate it because Maria Valtorta's works are accurate, and our very own, Stephen Austin, is often writing articles refuting any arguments

others make against Maria Valtorta (see **Stephen's Update** for a link) so I certainly do not want anyone feeding off my inaccuracy and therefore questioning these precious works. The online edition of Bulletin and Supplement No. 82 have both been amended.

Maria Valtorta Conference: The Conference Flyer – included in this quarter, asks participants and interested persons to contact **David** regarding possible billeting, accommodation, bookings and payment. The program for each day differs for those who are attending both days, and the costs are in keeping with expected outlays for use of the College, catering and all other expenses, which are substantially less than what would be currently charged for similar events elsewhere, and kept to a minimum.

For catering purposes, **please let David know if you are attending one or both days**, and if you have any **dietary requirements**. Payment can be made on the day. (If you really cannot afford the cost, just pay what you can).

If you are coming from interstate or overseas, please contact **David** (by email, if possible) regarding travel arrangements – including flight bookings – and he will advise how best you can be guided to find the venue, and if necessary, where you can be met.

It would be a great help if locals in Melbourne could let David know if they are able to billet one or more guests. For book purchases on the day, please pay by cash or cheque. Payment by credit card is not available. We are all looking forward to the Conference; but more so, to meeting old and new Valtorta readers.

David Murray: **david@valtorta.org.au** or call him within Australia on (03) 9879 7853 or international calls +61 3 9879 7853

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

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

Let me tell you about my colleague, Ed Ford. Over many years I have embarked on the production of a series of booklets on numerous themes, and on the recording of a number of audios of Maria Valtorta's

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writings. The first audio produced was *The Stations of the Cross*, recorded on a cassette tape, and later converted to a CD. This was discovered some dozen or so years ago by Ed Ford from Phoenix, Arizona in the United States, a devoted reader of Maria Valtorta's writings. Thus began what was to become one of the most important collaborations during the ensuing years. My interactions with Ed were mainly by telephone and e-mail, but resulted in a number of "valtortling" visits to the U.S., during some of which I was a guest in the home of Ed and his wife Hestor.

Ed believed that *The Stations of the Cross* remained the best of a number of audios which followed – including the 4xCD production of *The Gospel Meditated Rosaries* – and he played a very significant role in the production of a little blue booklet compressing these Rosary texts into a much shorter booklet, entitled *Praying the Rosary with the Writings of Maria Valtorta*. Here is a section which describes our interaction during the production of that booklet.

"As Ed and I worked together (both through the internet and by telephone), we began to develop a sense of what was essential for spiritual growth, and what was non-essential information. We were praying daily the very Rosary we were in the process of creating. Every day, Ed would come up with something that had occurred to him while he had prayed part of this Rosary that morning in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I would be working on the same, on the computer. We would discuss something that didn't sound right or was missing. We would ask if it was really essential or [if] this thought or event needed to be expanded. The criteria for our judgement was always, 'Does this build our love for Christ and His Mother; and will this help us grow in our faith and develop a stronger sense of what the Love that Christ taught was all about?' We both believe that the creation of this Rosary is a gift of the Holy Spirit for all of us."

After its completion, Ed's last words concerning this little Rosary booklet were: "Having really prayed it, I can tell you that I've never felt closer to Jesus and Mary." At the end of each of our many telephone conversations over the years, we'd say a little prayer, and Ed would often add a last word: "Life goes on".

My good friend, Ed Ford, died on 22 January 2016. I am quite convinced that a new and rewarding Eternal life now goes on for Ed.

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

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

It was nearing the Feast of the Assumption and the School's Director of Religion wanted the students to be properly prepared for this Holy Day of Obligation. As teachers, we all did our own thing. This was difficult for me because whenever we do a topic in class, I like to begin by referring the students to the Bible first, then to Maria Valtorta. However, in this instance, there is no recount of the Assumption in the Bible, so I did not have a point of comparison, let alone a valid opportunity with

which to include Maria Valtorta's works. What could I do? I was certainly not going to miss an opportunity to share Valtorta's works on this subject. So we briefly researched this dogma online first. We read about when and why Pope Pius XII proclaimed it, the thinking behind this teaching (fascinating) and the name of the document – *Munificentissimus Deus*. This enabled me to inform them that this very same Pope had read Maria Valtorta's works too, and he even commanded it to be published. So then I proceeded to read selected passages to them – first about Mary's death (*The Gospel* Vol. 10 pp.515-33 & *The Poem* Vol.5 pp.924-38) because many wondered if she died and how.

The class commented on a few things as we went along such as Mary collecting the different relics of Jesus, and how hard this must have been for her, Mary putting these in a chest for the disciples but for what purpose? They also commented on the peaceful way Mary died, the way John surrounded her body with flowers, the way her body did not give off the scent of death even after three days, and how John started to collect some of Mary's things and put them in the chest too. When we got to the part where the angels came to collect Mary's body and carry her through the opening made in the roof, some said they were happy John woke up just in time to witness Mary in the sky and meet up with Jesus again.

I then asked the class to Google images of the Assumption painted by famous artists over time. They looked at a few and commented which they thought best fit the description that they had just heard read. The image for this bulletin was one of the paintings they chose.

Was the **whole** class interested? No. Did they **all** join into our discussion? No. Did they **all** listen quietly and respectfully? Yes. In fact, at the end of class, quite a few boys thanked me for the lesson.

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

A READER'S CHOICE

Recently, a reader contacted me to purchase the book, *Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta* by Emilio Pisani. I informed her that I do not stock this particular book and explained that the book was well written and well presented, but many readers felt the encounter between the two was minimal in proportion to the content. However, so as not to disappoint her and others, here are a couple passages:

Maria Valtorta recounts: *"I have seen and spoken to Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (in dreams). In dreams, too, I have seen him in ecstasy after Holy Mass. I have seen his penetrating gaze and felt the scar of the stigmata on my hand when he took me by the hand. And, not when dreaming, but wide awake, I have noted his fragrance. No garden packed with fully-blossoming flowers can emit the heavenly scents which flooded my room on the night between July 25 and 26, 1941 or the afternoon of September 21, 1942, precisely while a friend of ours was speaking to Padre Pio about me (I did not know he had left for San Giovanni Rotondo). On both occasions, I later obtained the graces requested. The scent was also perceived by Marta. It was so intense that it woke her up. It then ceased all at once, as it had come all at once."*

(*The Notebooks-1943*, p. 27)

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“...Eight days ago, on November 22, precisely the night preceding Marta’s going down to Lucca to find out about permission for haulage, in my short sleep at dawn, I dreamt of heading for Viareggio (on foot), together with Marta, and meeting Padre Pio, or a Franciscan—but I think it was Padre Pio—who looked at me and said, as if speaking to himself, ‘It is bitter, though, to have gotten enthusiastic about returning and to experience such delay!’ I turned around and, a bit irritated and excited, asked, ‘What’s that? What’s that?’ He replied, ‘Nothing. I was saying that it is bitter to have gotten enthusiastic about returning and to experience such delay.’ He said that twice and disappeared. I woke up with concern and said to Marta, ‘You’ll see that nothing can be done.’ Marta replied, ‘Why, no! On the contrary, Padre Pio came to say that the delay has been bitter, but it is over.’ I responded, ‘No, no. You’ll see that it’s beginning now. He was too sad [while] saying those words.’ Marta went to Lucca...and found out that it was impossible to leave until after the 30th because permission was denied.”

(The Notebooks-1944: p. 626)

Testimony by Marta Diciotti, Maria Valtorta’s live-in housekeeper, friend, and confidant until the day of her death:

Marta recounts: *‘I remember that once a warrant officer from Marina who lived alone with his wife near here on Vittorio Veneto Street, spoke to Padre Pio, whom he had gone to see, about Maria. His name was Arena. In fact, at one time, men in particular could also speak with that famous Capuchin, not just make a confession. This warrant officer, then, who felt pity over Maria’s many sufferings, by his own initiative asked Padre Pio to have her obtain the grace of getting healed, or at least of suffering a little less.*

“Look, Father, that poor woman is suffering so,” this man said.

“Yes, yes, I know, I know. But if I can do anything, it will be for her soul. But I can do nothing for her body to relieve her afflictions.”

And while he was speaking with Padre Pio, a big wave of perfume was perceived here [at Maria’s house]. When he returned home, he came to see Maria and told her about his request and the answer he had received. She smiled and said “Well, yes! He’s right.” And she asked him the time of that conversation with the friar in San Giovanni Rotondo. Well, the time—and, obviously, the day—correspond exactly to the moment that wave of perfume was perceived.

(Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta by Dr. Emilio Pisani. pp.64-65)

Stephen Austin says: ‘Saint Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta are two of the greatest prophets, victim souls, and spiritual giants of the 20th century who, no doubt, experienced multiple connections on a supernatural plane during their lives on Earth, and who are now enjoying each other’s company in Heaven.

This article related several testimonies that confirm that St. Padre Pio recognized that Valtorta was a true fellow mystic and victim soul whose writings were given by God for the benefit of souls of good will. But St. Padre Pio is not the only canonized or beatified saint who has approved, endorsed, or praised Maria Valtorta’s work.’

To visit this article and these excerpts in full by Stephen Austin, visit our website – Maria Valtorta Readers’ Group and click on the Saint Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta tab, or follow this link <http://www.valtorta.org.au/Padre-Pio-Valtorta.html>

STEPHEN’S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Conferences: This year, Catherine Loft is going to head up the Australian Valtorta Conference in October and I’m going to represent the Maria Valtorta Readers’ Group at the Italian Valtorta Conference taking place at the same time in Pisa. My conference talk will be recorded, and this will be made available online sometime after the Conference. Catherine will also make available happenings at the Australian Valtorta Conference after the event.

New Valtorta articles: I’d like to let you know that there is a new refutation of an anti-Valtorta article. You can access it (as well as all other refutations of anti-Valtorta articles) on the page on our website entitled “An Analysis and Refutation of All the Top Anti-Valtorta Articles” here: <http://www.valtorta.org.au/refutation-of-anti-valtorta-articles.html>

e-book versions: Sometimes people contact us asking about e-book versions of Valtorta’s writings. Centro Editoriale Valtortiano has recently released many new e-books of Maria Valtorta’s writings. Centro Editoriale Valtortiano is now offering in .ePub and .Mobi formats all ten volumes of *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, Maria Valtorta’s *Autobiography*, all three volumes of Maria Valtorta’s *The Notebooks*, Valtorta’s *The Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*, Valtorta’s *The Book of Azariah*, *The Twenty Mysteries of the Rosary* (From the Writings of Maria Valtorta), and *Selected Parables* (From the Writings of Maria Valtorta). .ePub format is compatible with almost all major e-readers (except the Amazon Kindle). .Mobi format is compatible with the Amazon Kindle as well as several other devices. Both of these formats can be read on a PC or Mac computer using free software which can be downloaded online. Therefore, you can read these e-books on any device you want. The advantages of e-books are that they are much less expensive and can be carried more easily with you wherever you go. *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* in e-book format costs 9.90 euros per volume. This costs less than half the price of the paperback version. You can purchase and download these e-books here:

<http://www.mariavaltorta.com/index.php/eng/ebook-eng/>

e-book update: Lastly, there is a new *Summa & Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta’s Extraordinary Work* e-book update (available for download from our website). God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

REQUEST

In the last quarter, I was so pleased to meet Aloysius and his family here in Melbourne who is a Valtorta reader from Jakarta. Aloysius would like to make e-mail contact with

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other readers from that city. Unfortunately, as there are many gmail and hotmail addresses that do not have the country listed at the end, I do not know who to contact for permission. So, if you are from Jakarta and would like to have e-mail contact with Aloysius, please e-mail me at catherine@valtorta.org.au and I will pass your address on.

QUARTERLY SELECTION

Please contact us (via phone or e-mail) **for postage costs**. All items are listed in Australian dollars.

1. ***Mercy and Justice from Maria Valtorta's Writings.*** 48p (\$5.00) Compiled for the Jubilee Year of Mercy and to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Maria Valtorta death.
2. ***Selected parables – 100 Parables from Maria's Major Works.*** 111p. \$17.50
3. ***The Poem of the Man-God (pre-loved)*** Volumes 2, 3 & 4. These are \$40.00 each in very good condition.

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

Dear "MVRG" members [monthly group in Melbourne]. I enjoyed our last meeting. Thank you! It's amazing how we each bring a random verse, or section to share, which happens to link into a common theme!

Sometimes we even bring the same volume of *The Poem*, or the *Notebooks*, or other work to that session! To me, it shows how the Spirit of God is guiding us to a deeper relationship to the Gospels, within our personal need and understanding. By the end of the evening, I realise that we have actually been helping one another! (Why does that even surprise me!) ***Through The Gift which was given to, and received by, Maria Valtorta, we are guided by the Divinity and Humanity of Jesus Christ.*** Each chapter leads me into understanding the message with simplicity, and the deepening, discerning connection I have to my Faith.

I look forward to sharing continuing insights with Christ Jesus, and with other "MVRG" members from around the world in October. Yours in Christ,

Rosemarie Lennox, North Dandenong.VIC.

Thank you Catherine for your lovely bulletin. I am an RE teacher in N. Ireland and my teaching has been greatly enhanced since I discovered the beautiful *Poem*. I thank God that I came across the *Poem*, and that I went to Dublin some years ago to hear David speak and get some booklets. My biggest difficulty is that there is almost no knowledge of the *Poem* here and it has been very hard to get and expensive to buy. I treasure my copies! I love being an RE teacher. Anyway, it's lovely to get your reply and I hope you continue to keep up your excellent work for Jesus. All God's Blessings,

Breid Campbell, Northern Ireland

[Ed: If there is anyone from N. Ireland who would like to have e-mail contact with Breid and let her know she is not alone, please e-mail me and I will forward your address to her.]

[Ed: I recently came across a pre-loved copy of *The Poem of the Man God*, Volume 1 owned by a woman named Helen from Traralgon in country, Victoria. I do not know her or the circumstances as to why she is no longer in possession of this book, so I cannot print her full name. According to her written notes, Helen purchased a set from Auburn here in Melbourne (like many of us), back in 1992, and she has read it many times in 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2006. No notes have been made after this date. These books were a real treasure to her because after reading *The Hidden Life* in 1992, she writes:

"So far, I am drawn constantly to these revelations. It is like reading a biography of Jesus. It draws me closer to the Mysteries I read about in the Bible. Only here I feel at times, that I am at the holy places, and present at the events in the 'ordinary' life of the Holy family at Nazareth. I can see, in my imagination, these three Holy people going about their business as we do. Inspiring reading. Peaceful. True. Comforting. Powerful for my spirit."

At the end of Volume 1, Helen writes:

"There is a deep feeling of gratefulness within, of having this book. Having finished it today, I know Jesus, my Master, better than before. It is faith in the mystery of Love that makes my soul believe in this revelation as being authentic. A great comfort! Incredible as it sounds, but faith does increase understanding of the false and the divine, without fact."

In fact, Helen writes that she finished them again at "Midnight 21st August, 1997" to which she adds: *"It is an understatement to say that these five volumes have made my understanding of LOVE clearer. It has made Jesus a close friend and spiritual guide."*

Helen ends with a prayer: *"Lord, increase my faith in the things that exist beyond human comprehension."*

Helen, Traralgon, VIC

Dear readers, Helen's feelings certainly mirror our own. To share your response to Maria's works in the **Letters** section, please email catherine@valtorta.org.au

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of **Ed Ford** – husband of Hestor, father of John and his siblings, and grandfather, great-grandfather of many others of Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Ed passed away on 22 January, 2016.
He was a devoted reader and advocate of Maria Valtorta's writings.

His new life goes on. May he rest in peace.

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.]