

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 84 DECEMBER 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,
Welcome to the special edition of Bulletin & Supplement No. 84 December 2016 which will focus on the three Conferences which took place in France, Italy and Australia in memory of the 55th anniversary of Maria Valtorta's death in this Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Month of the Holy Rosary.

It is truly heart-warming to discover that so many people gathered in these countries to acknowledge the treasure that Maria Valtorta gave us through her love and sacrifice. The Bulletin begins with the Australian Conference followed by the first International Conference in Italy and finally the National Day of Friends of Maria Valtorta in France. The Supplement consists of Sr. Christine Kabumbu's talk; excerpts from Maria Diciotti's book, which includes Maria's working relationship with Lorenzo Ferri, the artist commissioned to draw people and places from Maria's visions; and a review by a Zenit journalist who attended the Italian Conference.

I hope you enjoy this armchair journey to Melbourne, Viareggio and Paris, and delight with the like-minded readers who were available to take part in these great cities this time around.

May you and all your family and friends experience peace, joy and a multitude of blessings this Christmas.

Growing in Faith,
Catherine

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

On 22-23 October, 2016 at the Pallotine Centre in Kew, 40 people gathered to fulfill a desire that each one of them had. For some it was curiosity to know a little more about this mystic. For others, it was a desire to share in a comfortable environment with others without feeling the need to justify themselves or feel defensive about their love of these works. Yet for others, it was an opportunity to meet other people – real people, not just names – who loved Maria's works too. People came from Tasmania, from city and country Victoria, from New South Wales, from Queensland and from New Zealand. There is no denying that although we were all strangers from a social perspective, we were not strangers on a spiritual level because from the very start, we certainly felt like kindred

spirits. We knew our own. Such joy! Apparently, it was a very cold, rainy, gusty Melbourne weekend with hailstones at one point and only a momentary ray of sunshine here and there. However, I can honestly say that I am one of the few that knew what was going on outside the walls of this beautiful historic building because we were all so absorbed in being together to share, that we had no reason to be concerned with the goings-on outside.

Each day's program began with a Mass. Fr. David Lemewu was once a MV Readers Group member at our monthly meetings before he got the call to become a priest. In fact, a few of us were at his ordination a couple of months before. What a blessing to have him say Mass for us. We certainly did not have to explain anything about Maria to him. He felt the love for her writings too. It was a beautiful Mass with a meaningful and engaging homily, not to mention his extraordinary singing ability!

Those who gathered were greeted with a gift bag containing the "necessary tools" needed for the day. It contained the program, rosary beads for this Month of the Rosary (lovingly sent by the Bove family from Western Australia & blessed by Fr. David Lemewu after Mass), a Mercy & Justice Booklet with excerpts from the writings of Maria Valtorta in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, a MV bookmark to commemorate the Conference, a prayer card for the canonisation of Maria Valtorta, and a DVD of Stephen Austin's talk to help confirm and validate our love for these works and our choice to read them so we can grow in faith. There was also a booklet of passages from Maria's writings to read and share within our small-group sessions.

Guest speakers consisted of Johnny Cantarella, Rosemarie Lennox and David Murray who shared their heartfelt testimonies. Stephen Austin sent a recorded talk on the astronomical and geographical authenticity of Maria's works, Patrick Jee spoke on the success and, at times, difficulties in attempting to reach out and spread Maria's works on social media.

As Sr. Christine Kabumbu from Zambia did not receive the necessary travel documentation in time (only 4 days out), she still sent her talk which was presented on the day. How we truly missed her. Finally, there was my own presentation of excerpts from Marta Diciotto's book *Una Vita Con Maria Valtorta (Life with Maria Valtorta)* which has not yet been translated into English.

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There were two opportunities available daily for people to meet in small groups, read passages aloud and share their personal response. This gave us all a chance to get together, get to know one another spiritually and reflect on the writings too. Not to mention that the tea/coffee and lunch breaks gave us more time to chat or browse books. But let's face it, most people were avid readers – they already had *The Poem of the Man-God* or *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*, so they were interested in *The Notebooks* primarily, and other booklets that they could share with friends back home.

We also prayed a decade of the rosary interspersed with relevant passages from the works (from *Praying the Rosary with Maria Valtorta*), the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and we listened to the audio reading of the canonised Sunday Gospel followed by the Maria Valtorta equivalent. (All books mentioned are on the current catalogue available on our website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au/>)

What an honour and a pleasure to have met so many extraordinary yet humble people from the Maria Valtorta readers' community. Thank you to all those who were able to come this time, and many thanks to those who helped. We hope to meet many more at the next one!

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

VIAREGGIO, ITALY

A successful Maria Valtorta International Congress took place in Italy on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October. It was held in Viareggio, which is a few kilometres from Maria Valtorta's house. This was the first of its kind organised by the Italian Maria Valtorta Foundation. Two hundred and fifty people who are avid readers gathered at this wonderful event. The material presented over these two days came from the work of students, scientists and priests, etc. Guest speakers included American specialists, Tom Dube and Stephen Austin; Spanish theologian Ruben Esteban Pineda, and many other Italian specialists in their fields, who presented the latest findings and who always continue to be amazed by the historical miracle of the Valtorta phenomenon. France was represented by Mr. Bruno Perrinet, the President of the French Foundation, who talked about the history and the different activities of the Association.

(Ed: This update was provided by Jérôme Bayle in French. Translation into English by me.

<http://www.associationmariavaltorta.fr/>)

(Ed: Australia was represented by Stephen Austin who is the webmaster of the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group Australia website and author of the Summa & Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work.)

A letter from Stephen Austin,

"The International Valtorta Conference in Italy went very well! It was fantastic meeting Valtorta researchers from around the world and seeing so many people who are Valtorta fans or are seriously interested in her. There were so many talks on such a variety of Valtorta topics: I highly recommend that readers watch many of them once they are uploaded. Many were presented by professors or experts in various fields, and many of them are relevant to my research (Ed: which Stephen will include when he updates his Summa). One of the speakers resolved four historical facts in Valtorta's work

that seemed like a contradiction to the mainstream thought of history (for example, the mention of Galen) and he did an excellent and thorough job resolving these apparent errors/contradictions.

All of the speaker's talks will be uploaded here:

http://www.fondazionemariavaltorta.it/it/convegna_2016.php

1. Michael Mellner – "*Maria Valtorta and the Catholic Church*" (44 minutes in Italian).
2. Stephen Austin – "*Promoting Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary writings*" (47 minutes in English).
3. Professor Giuseppe Fioraventi – "*Thoughts of the Laity in Maria Valtorta's time*" (56 minutes in Italian).
4. Professor Emilio Biagini – "*The Holy Shroud and Maria Valtorta*" (44 minutes in Italian).

However, as time needs to be spent on adding the English, Italian, French and Spanish subtitles or audio dubs to all of the videos, only several talks are uploaded so far without the official English-subtitled version of it yet. You will be informed when this is also available.

I also have some other exciting news! A journalist from Zenit showed up at the conference and interviewed me and others, and attended all of the events. She wrote two excellent articles about the conference and published them on Zenit (a popular international news organisation based in Rome). The first article is an excellent Questions & Answers interview with Don Zucchini (the priest who is in charge of the Maria Valtorta Foundation and who was behind this conference). The second article was a follow-up article summarising the conference and it was fantastic! The journalist even mentions my Maria Valtorta Summa & Encyclopedia in it, among other things. [Ed: I have translated this second one. Refer to Supplement

PARIS, FRANCE

A very successful first **National Day of Friends of Maria Valtorta** took place on 28 May, 2016 in Paris. There were 450 people present at the one-day Conference. Here is a letter written by Agnès Buet.

"I had the joy of participating in the first National Day on the writings of Maria Valtorta on Saturday, 28 May in the 16th district of Paris. I also had the joy of having my husband with me in the afternoon.

In the morning, I arrived around 9:20 at the Chapel of St. Bernadette, in the Parisian district of Auteuil. To enter the main chapel, you have to descend a flight of stairs. At the bottom, there is a mosaic of the apparitions [of Our Lady] to Bernadette. [So] there was Mary, our Mother, who welcomed us!

We started the day by entrusting it to [Jesus]. We prayed the Joyful, Sorrowful and only four of the Glorious mysteries of the Rosary because it was time for Mass, which was concelebrated by three priests, including Father Yannik Bonnet.

After Mass, those who registered were invited to the Chasseloup Room (about 50 metres down the road) for lunch. It was also a time to get acquainted and share information. Due to an influx of registrations, we were not

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served a hot lunch, but sandwiches at a cost priced for the 70 people present.

I found myself seated opposite a person who used to live near my parents, and she knew the Abbess of a neighbouring convent very well! Meanwhile, the person on my left discovered the writings of Maria Valtorta in an extraordinary way: he heard a voice say something in his ear, so then he did a search on the internet! This calls for humility and to recognise the greatness of the Lord who acts as He pleases.

After lunch, we were invited to walk about 150 metres to the Notre Dame Church in Auteuil, which was much larger than the room that welcomed us. Indeed, there were more than 400 people registered!

I found my husband (thank you mobile phone) and listened to Bruno Perrinet who introduced the speakers. The first told us about the accuracy of the details described by Maria Valtorta in her writings: he was in awe of the "impossible" human knowledge about the Palestinian, Hebrew, Greek and Roman world at the time of Christ. All recent scientific discoveries in archaeology, history and astronomy, extraordinarily confirm the writings of Maria Valtorta. As the speaker said: 'This proof is given in the same way as it was given to Saint Thomas: for he is the one who "touched" Jesus in order to believe just as we now also "touch" scientific evidence!'

The testimony of the final speaker, Father Yannik Bonnet really touched us. His discovery of Valtorta as a layman, at a time when his wife was suffering from cancer, helped him a great deal to be there for his children when she died and for sometime later. After becoming a priest, these books also helped him with his pastoral care of the faithful. By giving us some practical examples of the characters described by Valtorta, he showed us how Jesus, who was very respectful of everyone, always reacted appropriately to requests or to the sufferings [of the people] He met. It is therefore a valuable aid to his priestly ministry. Valtorta, being able to acutely analyse people, recounts visions with which she was rewarded very well and she sometimes recounts them with humour. After these deep and moving moments, we returned to the Chasseloup room for a chance to gather, purchase books and meet the authors.

For me, who always felt quite alone because I was the only one in my circle of friends to read Valtorta, it was very important to meet these Christians here from all backgrounds, who had a good head on their shoulders, and who were down-to-earth people that loved these books.

Will Valtorta be finally recognised and measured by her contribution to the Church and to the people of our time?" (Translated from French by Catherine Loft from the French Valtorta website.)

QUARTERLY SELECTIONS

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

1. ***Mercy and Justice from the writings of Maria Valtorta.*** 48p (\$5.00)
2. ***Selected parables - 100 Parables from Maria's Major Works.*** 111p. \$17.00
3. ***The Nativity, the Shepherds and the Three Wise Men.*** 36p. \$4.00

4. ***The End of Times Prophecies.*** 92p \$11.00
(Please note that this edition contains excerpts from all of Maria's works.)

READER'S REQUEST

A fellow Valtorta reader from Dublin, Ireland is interested in forming a local Valtorta readers/study group. If you live in Ireland or have friends who may be interested, please contact him at: mkenedy100@gmail.com

LETTERS

The Gospel as Revealed to Me is an incredible gift from God. You would think every Christian would be an avid reader and it would be promoted throughout the Church.

Volume 10 was incredible – to be given all these insights into the life and death of Christ, and so much more, is literally beyond words.

Written by New Zealand readers to our NZ agent Gwen Story

Gratitude for the Conference and all the work to provide us with this wonderful material, which is so vital for our souls to counteract the darkness which is trying to invade the entire globe.

Anna & Aristide Christoforidis, Heathcote, NSW

After speaking to my friend about Maria on the day I received the flyer on the Conference, I felt called by God to be there. The Mass was beautiful, and the whole day was well organised and uplifting. I will go away and read the books of Maria Valtorta.

Cheryl Hackett, Wantirna South, Victoria

Thank you for a very good day! Very informative. It is quite natural for the Church to closely scrutinise and critique any good work. Don't focus on the criticism nor the beautification. Focus only on the Lord.

John Hackett, Wantirna South, Victoria.

As a new reader of Maria Valtorta, it has been fantastic to be with others who have experienced what I have. I have found this whole day very special – a beautiful Holy Mass, most inspiring talks and two wonderful testimonies. I am now more enthused than I was before I came here, to read more and more. And I thought I was already full to capacity! I feel sure the Holy Spirit has brought us all here. May He continue to guide us.

Jacinta Hagen, Langwarrin, Victoria

What an experience to meet with others whose journey has been enriched so much from the writings of Maria Valtorta. The Mass was so moving and I feel deeply blessed to have been called to this Conference. These works have touched my life. I truly believe that they could only have been written under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Janet Kruger, Wantirna South, Victoria

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to meet other people who share our passion for the writings of Maria. We travelled all the way from New Zealand and have thoroughly enjoyed sitting and listening to other people's experiences. We represent the 70 NZ members.

Erling and Cherie Aronsen, Auckland, New Zealand

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Great to meet like-minded people and hear how much they get out of studying Valtorta's works.

Peter Smith, Burwood, Victoria

Congratulations on such a well run Conference over the weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed speaking about Maria and her beautiful writings. The company was terrific, the luncheon, morning and afternoon teas were delicious. Please consider making this a yearly event.

Lorraine Twentyman, Altona, Victoria

Thanks so much to you and to all the MV readers group for organising such a fantastic weekend. It was such a good idea to gather us all together, for the information, presentations and discussions, and especially for the opportunity and honour of meeting everyone there!

Could all the "extra" information you read out to us from Marta's book - given that it is not yet translated into English, be printed as a hand out? There was so much interesting info there, especially all the details of her interaction with the artist, Lorenzo Ferri.

Maybe a whole new Conference should be on the End Times alone [from the writings of Maria Valtorta], as I am personally fascinated with that topic.

Antonia Culanic, Narre Warren North, Victoria

Just a short note to congratulate and thank you and your wonderful team for an amazing weekend! Although I have not yet read Maria Valtorta's books, this Conference has certainly given me the incentive to do so, enabling me to contribute to future discussions more confidently. I have enjoyed listening to all the speakers especially Johnny's testimony, which I found so moving. Having said that, each & every one of you were fabulous. I hope this is the first of many Valtorta Conferences you have in store for us.

Genevieve Koenig, Berwick, Victoria

May I take a moment to congratulate you and everyone involved supporting the Conference held at Pallotine Centre in Kew. Your enthusiasm showed at every opportunity that you spoke and lead us through the various stages of the Conference. Also thank you for the contents of the "Show Bags" and the sample literature included. Weekends like this are always beneficial to everyone and I have certainly learnt and taken away some practical materials that are applicable to our daily lives. At the beginning of the year, I read the 10 volumes of *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* and some of the *Notebooks*, and, of course, there is always more to read and learn. I would indeed participate in the next one, should you decide to plan and organise a Conference in the future. God bless you, your colleagues and your work. Peace be with you and may the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus be your guiding light.

Marcel Koenig, Berwick, Victoria

[Ed: According to Marta, Maria did have an ardent desire for the works to be approved by the Church and published in order to save so many souls, but Maria asked the Lord for only one favour - *not to give her any external visible signs, neither before nor after her death*. When Maria's body was exhumed in 1973, Father Berti was disappointed that there were no extraordinary signs, such as the body being intact - incorrupt. However, Marta never expected anything because Maria herself had told her about her request. This explains not only the absence

of the stigmata, even though Maria felt all the pains of the Passion, but also the fact that the corpse did not remain incorrupt, which would have made it less difficult to open her cause for beatification. The only outward sign of her participation in the Passion was a bruise on her back that lasted for years, which was one of the blows from the scourging. (This remained until her death, without ever healing). There may have been no stigmata and no incorrupt remains but even at her death, there was a small miracle, a clue: the right hand with which Maria wrote remained intact until the burial, while the left and the rest of her body already showed signs of perishing. Furthermore, at the opening of the tomb, her hair was grey, but when cleaned, her hair returned to the blonde colour of her youth. (*from Una Vita con Maria Valtorta. Life with Maria Valtorta. Testimonies by Maria Diciotti*)

(Ed: Along with us,

All the Maria Valtorta readers worldwide are saying the same thing

If only the Pope and the Bishops would read them,

If only the Priests would read them

If only our friends and family would read them

If only our kids and the youth of today would read them,

Then everyone would understand,

People would grow in the faith

and many others would return to the faith

God has granted Maria Valtorta's wish, so far to this day, to let her remain small and unnoticed, and we have to respect that, but at the same time, we need to pray to God to have Maria Valtorta **acknowledged** in order for her Works to be finally acknowledged and spread to so many more people. So let us continue to pray the Canonisation prayer but continue to leave it in God's hands and in God's own time.

*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.*

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.]