

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

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'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...'
– Pone Pius XII

EDITORIAL

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,
I will be honest with you. I struggled with this Bulletin and Supplement. I had so much information to relay to you, which felt so disconnected that I was at a loss as to what to include and how to tie it all together into something coherent and thematic. It seemed all disjointed but all-important. It was like all those people you went to visit in a year, (whom you had asked to come and visit you one day) suddenly appeared on your doorstep at the same time. In fact, it was this analogy that helped me finally resolve my dilemma: everyone and everything was equally important and that each aspect brought with it the underlying connection which will always be Maria Valtorta. **Bulletin:** Our regular columns are included but I found the **Letters** a real highlight. On a sad note, three of our members died this quarter.

Supplement: Part 1 of this edition consists of three passages from Maria Valtorta's writings about the accuracy of prophecies included in one of our most popular thematic books, *The End of Times Prophecies*. Many things change over time but it seems that people do not: the topic is timeless. Maria's writings exhibit this point very clearly. Section 2 consists of more information about Maria Valtorta from Marta Diciotti's book, *My Life with Maria Valtorta*.

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

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

Major Audio Productions:

Early during the 20 or so years of putting together numerous little booklets on various people and themes depicted in Maria Valtorta's writings, I had occasionally thought that one day I just might do something on The Stations of the Cross, and on the Rosaries. Both of these eventually occurred. Here is a list.

The Stations of the Cross: Many years ago when audio cassette tapes were very popular, I first recorded *The Stations of the Cross* passages on a 90-minute cassette tape. This was subsequently converted to a CD.

The Gospel Meditated Rosaries: In the year 2000, on cassette tapes, I recorded the (then) 3 Rosaries, to which – in late 2002 – was added the new "Luminous Mysteries".

It was about this time that these four 90-minute cassette tapes were edited and converted to four 75-minute CDs, and a booklet of transcripts of these rosaries was printed. During the conversion process, I discovered that one of the Sorrowful Mysteries on the cassette tape had eleven Hail Marys! While recently recognising that some significant passages might be lost forever by the conversion of the tapes to CDs, I am now working on restoring the Rosary audios from the cassette tapes to their original unedited lengths, and have them replace the present (abbreviated) CD tracks on the Readers' Group website. God willing, this will happen very soon.

The Sunday Gospels:

At about the turn of the century, I collaborated with a good friend (who wishes to remain anonymous) in recording all of the Sunday Gospels for liturgical years A, B and C, plus the gospels for the Church's major feasts and memorials. My friend would read the Gospel of the day, and I would record what Maria Valtorta had witnessed and written from the texts in *The Poem of the Man-God*. Altogether there were 50-plus tracks for each of years A, B and C, and a similar number for each of the major feasts – including 26 tracks covering Jesus' Passion. This process took about three years...[but] we decided to do it all again, this time adding relevant passages from Maria's six other writings – her *Autobiography*, her three *Notebooks*, *The Book of Azariah*, and the Holy Spirit's *Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*. The expansion and completion of these Sunday Gospels occurred at a time when the compression of audios to MP3 format became popular. A 4xCD (MP3) set totaling about 50 hours was produced. The quarterly sets of transcripts are e-mailed to about [100] priests on our lists who find them very useful when scanning for material for their Sunday homilies.

Why is Mary Crying? In 2008, Bishop Roman Danylak, in Canada, launched a 160-page book compiled by Ed Ford and I, which covered just about all the episodes of Our Lady's life as described by Maria Valtorta. Prior to its printing, Ed and I thought the book should be entitled *Why is Mary Crying?*, but the bishop said it should be called: *Mary, Mother of the Redeemer and the Church – Her Life, Sufferings and Mission*. Ed deferred to the bishop's preference, telling me "Rome has decided – Rome must be obeyed", so we obeyed.

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Nonetheless, we then produced an audio book of this work, with 32 tracks, and gave it our "preferred" title: *Why is Mary Crying?* Before completing this audio production, and realizing that – apart from a brief harp extract from Schubert's "Ave Maria" at the beginning of each track – it was always my voice narrating the text, I searched for a woman's voice to introduce each track. With time running out and not finding a suitable woman's voice for the introductions, my only daughter Robyn – aware of my frustration, but not in the least sharing my passion for Maria Valtorta's writings – said to me "I'll do it, dad!" She did just that, and did it very well indeed. I believe that God blessed her for this – she died suddenly in 2010 – and that it would quite possibly have helped her entitlement for a ticket to Heaven.

Chaplet of the Holy Family: 2002 was a significant year for me. It was not long after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, and it marked the time of my first "Valtortling" trip to the United States and Canada. It was also when I recorded a little-known cassette tape in Rosary format entitled *Chaplet of the Holy Family*. This draws mainly from two Readers' Group booklets entitled: "**Marriage and Family Life**", and "**The Strength and Power of Woman**". Its five decades are: "Man and Women", "The Soul of a Child", "Wife and Mother", "Husband and Father", and "Redemption of the Family". Sharing this during a pilgrimage to Marmora in Canada, Mary McBride told me: "I cannot understand why it does not sell so abundantly, but maybe the time for it is close at hand". It is also available as a CD, and has a transcript booklet.

May God bless and keep you all.

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

I try to make a point of starting the lesson by introducing the students to as many saints as possible over the year so that they can "meet" better role models rather than the celebrities they come across so frequently.

In order to prepare for class the next day, I referred to my Divine Mercy calendar (I put one in every classroom I teach) and the 9 February was the feast day of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich.

I have never been drawn to her because I couldn't get past the first 60 pages of her 4-volume set. Certain things didn't ring true to me and it was too narrative. I felt this even before I read Maria Valtorta, but especially after. Furthermore, I also kept hearing and reading that her writings were "fabricated and doctored", and what's more, Maria Valtorta also annotated many things in her personal copy of Emmerich's work pointing out the errors and inaccuracies. This disturbed me the most, especially as Emmerich was beatified – she was Blessed Anne Catherine. The more I thought about her, the more I felt drawn to introduce her to the class. It was such a strong feeling that I acted on it. I informed them that:

-Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich came from a family of ten children.

-She did not join the convent until she was 29 because the religious orders she applied to rejected her as she did not have a dowry due to her poverty.

-Only the Poor Clares accepted her if she agreed to learn to play the organ.

-Anne Catherine received the stigmata and the crown of thorns but asked that they be made invisible so she wouldn't attract attention.

-Anne Catherine not only prayed fervently for the souls in purgatory, but she was also a victim soul who had offered her life for sinners in the world.

-For 12 years, Anne Catherine did not consume solid food except the Eucharist. She was removed from her home for three weeks and watched by secular authorities 24/7 in 6-hour shifts. They called her "The Imposter", but in the end, they were convinced.

-Due to several factors surrounding Clemens Brentano's writing and editing of her visions, Emmerich's beatification process was based solely on her personal sanctity and virtue, and not her visions as presented in the books.

-Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, was partially based on her works.

Throughout this reflection, the class expressed mixed emotions on the injustices in her life, they were amazed by her stigmata and they marveled at her diet on the Eucharist.

I may have introduced them to another great visionary and mystic. However, it turned out to be more than that for me. I knew more than what I had told the class. I understood why the Vatican questioned the account of Emmerich's visions and why Valtorta did too. I also came to understand why Valtorta's annotation was made public when she had not intended it to be.

Due to her family's poverty, Anne Catherine obtained only a brief education. She had visions of Jesus and Mary, the saints and angels, some of which while she was in ecstasy. When she became bedridden, a poet and romanticist, Clemens Brentano, visited Anne Catherine. He would sit with her and listen to her descriptions. He did not take any notes of what she said because she spoke a German dialect, and so Brentano could not always transcribe her words directly into German as she was saying them. When he got home, he would write notes based on what he remembered and from what he understood from her dialect. Furthermore, it wasn't until ten years later that he revisited his own notes and wrote the books from them. And, as he was an educated man and a writer, he included his own ideas in an attempt to enhance what Anne had told him.

This explained why her works were primarily third-person narrative with little or no dialogue. After all, Clemens Brentano could not quote a conversation verbatim if he wasn't there, especially pages and pages of it like Maria Valtorta does. Furthermore, Brentano wrote the books after Emmerich died, and not during her lifetime. So she could not validate what Brentano wrote, and he could not check with her if what he wrote was correct. What was really enlightening and made me feel at peace was that I came to understand that Maria Valtorta was not criticising, questioning or attacking Emmerich personally: Valtorta was noting for herself and revealing what the Church already knew: that there were so many questionable factors in Clemens Brentano's writings that it could not have been an accurate account of Emmerich's visions.

At this moment, I also wanted to introduce this class to Maria Valtorta and wanted to tell them that Valtorta was also a victim soul and her works, which has some narrative, was also full of dialogue and written by her own hand. Maria Valtorta wrote down everything while in partial ecstasy (during ecstasy/visions; not afterwards). By

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contrast, Brentano wrote down details of Emmerich's visions *after* her visions occurred. I wanted to show them that Valtorta's visions were so detailed and accurate, that it amazed scholars and specialists in their field worldwide. I even had a passage selected to read to them. I really wanted to...and I planned to ...but I didn't. Maria could wait a little while longer. This was Emmerich's feast day and my heart broke that she had been given her life to atone for the sins of the world and yet the visions, which were gifted to her, would always be shrouded with doubt and questioned for authenticity. I felt the injustice, I felt so sad for Emmerich, but I better understood Valtorta's feelings towards Emmerich too. I now felt at peace.

It's funny how I planted the seed for my class' enlightenment and it ended up being for my own.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

There is a new Summa & Encyclopedia e-book update (available for download from our website). In it, the "Proof by Geography" chapter has been expanded to address and refute recent objections of critics. I included the full testimonial of Professor Vittorio Tredici and explain in further depth how Maria Valtorta described Palestine and over 350 geographical locations in the Holy Land with a level of precision in multiple fields that she could not possibly have known without modern electronic scholastic resources or access to an extensive collection of books/atlas in the 1940s that eyewitnesses and common sense confirm she did not have – nor could have had – access to, and which itself arguably would have been insufficient to complete her work. I also included the signed testimony of Valtorta herself and others that she had very little resources available to her during the time she wrote her work. I also added new information to the "Proof by Astronomy" chapter, including information from Thomas Dubé's recent talk at the International Italian Valtorta Conference and a recent study published in a secular scientific journal in January 2017 by two professors which points to the unexplainable precision and accuracy in the astronomy, chronology, and meteorology in Valtorta's work. I also improved and expanded the discussion in the e-book about the Index of Forbidden Books and the canonical status of Valtorta's work, as well as added a few new chapters and made various corrections, revisions, and other additions throughout the e-book.

There are two new pages on our website:

What is the Position of the Church on Maria Valtorta's Main Work?

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/position-of-church-on-valtorta.html>

Pope Pius XII's Command to Publish Maria Valtorta's Main Work (February 26, 1948):

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/pope-pius-xii-valtorta.html>

The following Maria Valtorta Conferences page has also been updated and expanded:

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/Maria-Valtorta-Conferences.html>

All of the International Italian Valtorta conference talks are now finally uploaded! For links, you can view the Maria Valtorta conference page on our website (given above) and scroll down to the video links. However, English subtitles haven't been prepared for the non-English videos

and so if you only speak English, you will only be able to understand the talks by Thomas Dubé and myself at this time. However, I think you would find both of them very informative and I encourage you to check them out!

Re-download your free Maria Valtorta app to access maps and audio recordings of the Sunday Gospel readings.

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

REQUEST

I get so many earnest requests from people worldwide who want to be in touch with other Valtorta readers in their area for a monthly or three-monthly, day or evening, on-line or offline Valtorta book club. So I am putting it out there to you. We need some readers to be the contact person for a particular suburb, city, state or country. I will list your first name, area and email address in the next Bulletin in June, and people can contact you to make arrangements. **Patrick in Glen iris, Michael in Ireland, Aloysius in Jakarta and Breid Campbell in Northern Ireland** all gave their details a year ago in this Bulletin. We would like to see it grow so please e-mail me if you are interested to get the ball rolling.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

QUARTERLY SELECTION

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

1. ***The End of Times and Prophecy***. 92p (\$11.00)
2. ***Mary, Mother of the Redeemer and the Church***. 160p (18.00)
3. **AUDIO** of the book above called ***Why is Mary Crying?*** CD (MP3) 12 hours (\$18.00)
4. **The Passion** booklet. (\$5.50)

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

I am really looking for people to discuss Valtorta with. Can you help me? Maybe a group call? Or any group discussion in any way?
Joshua, USA

A quick question for you. Are there no "groups" in the U.S. that do any sort of work regarding *the Poem of the Man-God*? It continues to shock me how this work goes virtually unnoticed by the world's population. I have been reading and studying the *Poem* for nearly 25 years now. I read in Church before Mass and have actually gotten quite a few "converts" lol! I don't ever push it, I let people ask and the several that have taken it up thank me from the bottom of their hearts for sharing. It's all we can do, I guess....But again if there is any action ever going on in the U.S. please let me know!
John Coyne, NY, USA

I have been receiving the Bulletins for many years now and I always look forward to them, and save them to read while I am at Eucharistic Adoration in the wee hours of the morning. Just me and Jesus. I wanted to thank you so much for this past bulletin no. 84. It is, in my recollection, the best and most informative that I have read, and I will be looking forward to them even more. Your Brother In Christ

Norman Adams, NY, USA

Thanks to Maria Valtorta and to you, I made a Profession of Faith on April 2, 2016, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Clovis, California. Even though my wife and I have attended Catholic churches for 45 years (since

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she was raised Catholic), I was never confirmed. I am on my second read of the ***Gospel as Revealed to Me*** and I go to Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) with my Catholic neighbor. Maria Valtorta's writings give me a very clear understanding of the WORD... I have been asked by the International Kairos Prison Ministry to lead the May 2017 four-day visit to a Maximum Security Federal Prison. We are about twenty Kairos non-denominational and clergy volunteers that bring Christ's teaching to prisoners. Yes, they are the gang leaders and their enforcers. This will be my fourth visit to the prison as a Kairos volunteer... Maria Valtorta, and Jesus and Mary, have helped me to share the Word of God in the most direct and truthful manner.

Drew Loucks Clovis, CA. USA

How wonderful to read of the Conferences and all that went on there. I actually wept with joy as I read. Oh, how I would love to have been there. Thank you for the very good write-up that conveyed so much... Love to those who, like me, have been blessed to know Jesus, Mary, the apostles and oh, so many of the others who loved them through these precious words of Maria! **Jacqueline Henss (e-mail)**

... Today I googled Maria Valtorta and listened to [David] lead the Holy Rosary. I wanted to let you know that it was really lovely to say the rosary along with [David] It felt as though a friend was saying it with me... and indeed a friend was. **Cherie Aronsen, New Zealand**

It was funny reading Sister Christine's testimony in the Supplement and her staggered journey to becoming a disciple of the ***Poem***. As I read it, I thought about our efforts to help the nuns in NZ convents to have the ***Poem*** on their bookshelves. If people knew what was available, there would be no books gathering dust in libraries, etc. Of course, I must admit that God had to push a huge lot of buttons to get me reading, and, even then, it was a struggle to get me going. Now I am just on the last few chapters of the last volume and I have found the second reading so much more inspiring than the first, even though I enjoyed the first reading very much. It is definitely a treasure of the highest order.

Jim Costello, Punakaiki, New Zealand

Thank you very much for all the news from "The Readers Group". I have had all five volumes of the ***Poem of the Man-God*** for a number of years, and they have changed my spirituality massively.

When my wife and I were given Volume One fairly soon after they came out, I became yet more and more convinced that it was from God. As it happened, not so long after, we were going to Medjugorje... I felt I needed a sign, particularly considering the Vatican's reaction to the books at the time, and I resolved to confess there that I was reading them and then to abide by whatever the priest advised. I queued up at one of the confessionals ... Not only did [the priest] fully believe in the books, but he had been into the houses of one of the visionaries during the time that they were meeting Our Lady ... [and] he had the opportunity to write down a question for the visionary to ask the Mother of Jesus. Well this priest ... asked about ***The Poem of the Man God*** and... the simple answer he received was, "Read them if you must". The reason I am quite sure of this wording is that, of course,

Our Lady is truly acknowledged and given her place as Queen of Heaven in these books, so I feel she was being her usual humble self by this wording. ... The priest confirmed this in a letter to me. ... Tragically, the priest was killed whilst praying the rosary with his mother in her villa in Rome... Thank you for what all the Readers' Group is doing. And may the love of Jesus also fill you all with His love in this coming time. **Brian Reeves, (email)**

I am Filipino but I live in Los Angeles. I have been evangelizing others about the ***Poem of the Man-God*** since I discovered it in 1987, which changed my life. When only the first two volumes had been published in English. I used to call the distributor in Quebec to check on the translation progress of the other volumes, and even on the shipping schedule from Italy! My children remember how they would become "Valtorta orphans" at night because after all the household routine had been done, without delay, I would read Maria Valtorta. For me, reading the book was walking with Jesus, Mama Mary, and all the disciples in Palestine. I have received many wonderful blessings and amazing graces clearly from above through this monumental work.

Thank you so much for Bulletin and Supplement #84. It is a great gift and blessing!... Your translation of Maria Diciotti's book provides an enhanced optical appreciation of the characters and events illustrated that gives a deeper connection with Maria's writings. It makes her account of people and events come to life in a more significant spiritual experience. You put my exact feelings into words: regarding Ferri's book. At first, I did not want to look at it because I had conjured up my own image of the various people which did not match hers. Like you, I could not bear to look at the representations in the book, especially of Mama Mary in Ferri's particular style; that is, until last night! Upon reading what you wrote, I really looked at the book only for the first time! I thank YOU!!

By God's grace, my desire to visit Maria Valtorta's place in Viareggio happened a year ago in October. Thank you for all that you do for all of us readers of Maria Valtorta. God bless you all in Australia. **Josephine Shiplacoff, LA. USA**

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

Gerard Phillips - brother of Peter, MV Readers' Glen Iris Group member

Margaret Taylor - longstanding MV reader.

Barbara Joan Gaughan - longstanding MV reader

May they 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.]