

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...'
– Pope Pius XII

EDITORIAL

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,
In this edition of the **Bulletin**, we hope to make you feel connected to all the other Valtorta readers worldwide and to celebrate our love of these works. I am still trying to plant the seed in the classroom, David Murray is still germinating it, and Stephen Austin is still scattering the seeds far and wide. As readers, you are all still seeing 'the fruits' as you consume these writings and benefit from them. What's more, you are all participating actively in the 'ripple effect' as you invite others to read these works too. We are all part of this apostolate in some meaningful way, and as we say here in Australia, 'Love your work'.

We have also obtained a report about our website, which is certainly worth reading. Furthermore, some readers have volunteered to give others their email address so that people in their area or in their country can stay connected. Very exciting news is that a devout reader, John Lee, has written a musical on Mary Magdalene based on the writings of Maria Valtorta. I hope you enjoy this information, along with our regular columns.

Part One of the **Supplement** contains a few of David's favourite passages that he has read along his journey. Part Two is a review given by a priest on the Second Valtorta Conference in France in May. Part Three consists of more translated excerpts from Marta Diciotti's book, ***My Life with Maria Valtorta***.

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

ERRATA

In our previous edition, Bulletin No.85, I was so focussed on finding an image of the crucified Jesus that would photocopy well for our hardcopy subscribers that I didn't notice that the chosen image had two nails in Jesus' feet instead of one. Thank you to our reader who kindly pointed this out. I have contacted our webmaster, Stephen Austin to replace it on the Bulletin on the website.

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

All of Maria's works are a joy to behold in themselves but David's contribution this quarter consists of some of his favourite passages that have remained in his heart and

have journeyed with him over the years, and ones that we can meditate on too. Refer to the Supplement for these. David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

As I do at the start of every lesson, I begin with a reflection. One of my favourite PowerPoints is **God's Pharmacy** which students also enjoy. After watching it, we marveled at how God gave us visible clues as to which part of the body each food would nourish, and then we thanked God for not only creating a beautiful world but for giving us what we need to take care of ourselves.

Do you think this was the end of it and we could begin the lesson? No way. They wanted to talk more about this topic of natural foods and medicine. So we visited the OT bible – Ezekial 4:9 and we looked at the ingredients listed in this bread. I then informed them that an organic health-food store sells this bread, and the actual loaf is called 'Ezekial 4:9'. We then looked at Daniel:1. This was the story of Daniel, one of the four young Israelites who were in the king's army but who did not want to eat the daily portions of the rich food and wine forced upon them in preparation for battle. They asked the King to test them on a diet of water and fresh vegetables for ten days instead. They proved to be healthier and had more bulk after avoiding rich food. In the NT, we looked at prayer and fasting, and why Jesus did this. Since then, Our Lady also encourages people to pray and fast for spiritual reasons although many people have said that they have felt better physically too. I then told them how Mother Eugenia Ravasio went to the Ivory Coast to help lepers who were put there to stop the illness from spreading. It was on this island that our loving God the Father enabled her to find a plant that would not only stop leprosy for those that had it, but the Paris Institute was able to use it to cure this illness. Was I going to stop there? No. I hadn't mentioned Maria Valtorta yet. From these writings I shared passages where Our Blessed Mother used natural ingredients to medically help people.

'Eat, John. It will really do you good. You must not get cold. Simon of Jonah, you will see that every evening he has some hot milk with honey, or at least some hot water and honey. Remember that.'

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'I will see to that, as well, Mother. You may rest assured' says Syntyche.

'...And remember, Simon, to give him much olive oil. That is why I gave you the little oil jar. Watch that it does not get broken. And if you see that he has difficulty in breathing, do as I told you, using the other little vase of balm. Take enough of it to rub his chest, shoulders and kidneys. Warm it first so that you can touch it without burning yourself, then rub it on and cover him immediately with the woolen bands I gave you. I prepared the balm for that special purpose. And you, Syntyche, remember its composition, so that you can make more. You will always be able to find lilies, camphor, dittany, resin and cloves with laurel, artemisia and the rest. I hear that Lazarus has gardens of essence plants at Antigonea.'

(The Poem, Vol. 3, pp. 206; The Gospel, Vol 5 pp.118-9).

It was apparent to us all that God, Our heavenly Father and Mary, Our Blessed Mother have always provided for us spiritually and physically.

After the class' reaction, I had no doubt what was going to be the talk at their dinner table that night.

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

READER'S CHOICE

Dear MV Readers,

I have chosen this passage which is also one of David's favourites, because along with many others, I am amazed at God's omnipotence.

Patrick Jee, Melbourne, Australia

(Jesus says:)

'...I would be a very small and limited God the Creator if I had created only the Earth as an inhabited world! With a beat of My will, I have brought forth worlds upon worlds from nothing, and cast them as luminous fine dust into the immensity of the firmament.

'The Earth, about which you are so proud and fierce, is nothing but one of the bits of fine dust rotating in unboundedness, and not the biggest one... Lives upon lives are teeming in the millions of worlds which are the joy of your gaze on peaceful nights, and the perfection of God will appear to you when, with the intellectual sight of your spirits rejoined to God, you are able to see the wonders of those worlds...' (Notebooks 1943, pp. 261-2)

[Ed: Please note that 'lives' in this passage could be referring to a number of different possibilities and possible interpretations]

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

There is a new Summa & Encyclopedia e-book update (available for download from our website) where I have done some corrections and minor revisions, expanded the "Analysis and Refutation of Other Objections" subchapter and several other refutations, and I include a link to a new refutation in defense of Valtorta, which is available on our website here:

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/refutation-of-objection.html>

I have some good news! If you might recall, in our December 2014 and March 2016 bulletins, we gave some updates on the English translation of Jean-François Lavère's highly-anticipated book, entitled *L'énigme Valtorta, Une Vie de Jésus Romancée? (The Valtorta*

Enigma, a Fictionalized Life of Jesus?). Jean-François Lavère, a professional engineer, has been studying the works of Maria Valtorta for 25 years. Convinced that the historicity of Maria Valtorta's work would either prove itself, or show itself to be wrong, he undertook a systematic study of thousands of details provided in her work. He has methodically identified, over the years, more than 10,000 pieces of data in her writings in fields as diverse as the arts, astronomy, flora and fauna, ethnology, geography, geology, history and geopolitical science, technology, metrology, religions, social sciences, etc., and he has shown how these details correspond to authoritative sources with remarkable accuracy.

Bishop Johanan-Mariam Cazenave, the Secretary of the Syrian-French Synod, wrote a preface for his book in February 2012, which is viewable online here (this is an English translation of his preface):

http://www.bardstown.com/~brchrys/The_Valtorta_Enigma_Preface.pdf

I quote an excerpt from the Bishop's preface:

'It is precisely this which forms the power of the prodigious and patient work of Jean-François Lavère. This work, in fact, gives evidence of an astonishing agreement between the recent discoveries of science and the visionary descriptions of Maria Valtorta which are spread over thousands of pages: without erasures, without contradictions, and in a unity of times and places as demonstrated by very rigorous research. All that a half century ago: from the depth of her bed of suffering, without documentation and with no connection to a scientific community, this woman "sees" in real time and by a kind of shortcut: describing what some scholars would much later laboriously deduce from archeological data two thousand years old! Names of villages in Aramean, cities and monuments that disappeared and then are found again today, a knowledge of manners and customs, of scenery, attire...a whole context whereby the author of this Work amply demonstrates that this tour de force is impossible if one leaves no place for what the "seer" herself affirms: it is God who shows her, it is Jesus who dictates to her the instructions which accompany [His] illustrating the Gospels without ever betraying them: in their cultural context and often with moving poetry, consecrating the union of the True, of the Good and of the Beautiful which rises from Christ like water from its source.

'...this Work is of an extraordinary origin. Without that, it is simply inexplicable and even unthinkable for scientific objectivity. It is indeed astonishing to note that science could be so rigorous that, in order to remain consistent—and if it wants to remain honest—it must posit as a hypothesis the existence of a supernatural origin to a series of phenomena where the law of causality on which all science is based, is not called into question, but seen to be defective by the very facts which it analyzes. Every miracle enters into this type of process. In the case of Maria Valtorta, after a reading of this brilliant Work, science—which is a tool all the more effective as it gives rise to new facts unrecognized for two thousand years—sees itself, not immersed in epistemological subtleties, but confronted by a brutal contradiction of its own experience: How had this simple woman been able to know what was buried for two thousand years and which emerged again a half-century after her!'

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Jean-François Lavère released his book (in French) in June 2012 and there have been translations into Italian, French, and German. He has just recently notified me that the English translation is finally completed and a few things are being finalized before publication. Expect it to be released soon (perhaps by the time the next MVRG Bulletin is released). We will keep you updated!

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group is an online non-profit organisation whose fundamental and sole intention is to spread the writings of Maria Valtorta to as many people as possible and to bring like-minded people together. (That's why we all still have our day jobs).

Stephen Austin, as you may know, is the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group webmaster. Not only has he created a wonderful website for us all to peruse but he has contributed so much information of his own to make it what it is today. He is so committed to this website that he is always looking for ways to improve it in order to reach more people.

He recently contacted me asking if we could look into getting a professional or an expert in marketing to help improve the website so that we get more visitors, and therefore spread these important writings further. (As if his knowledge, expertise and endless hours weren't effective enough!) I knew how brilliant Stephen is and how grateful we are to have him. But he doesn't know this. So I contacted our 'silent partner' Johnny Cantarella who is also an IT specialist and asked him to look into our website and give me a report. My hunch was correct and I wish to thank Stephen and inform you all just how much the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website is faring through his efforts.

According to the information that Johnny Cantarella (JC) researched:

1. The website is listed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on the page in ranking when doing a search for Valtorta from so much other Valtorta content on the internet. (JC: *this is ideal*) (Ed: *this ranking is also attributed to Johnny starting this website 20 years ago so that the older the website with old material still available affects the higher ranking too*)

2. The estimated web traffic for April was 1,693 unique (new) visitors with 3,498 total visits for the month.

3. The number of new or unique visitors has been, on average, 1,500 a month between Jan-April (JC: *this is very good considering how much this keeps improving with new information and updates*)

4. The average number of visits is 3,600 visitors a month between Jan-April (JC: *this is very good web traffic*)

5. The average number of pages that is visited is 6,800 a month (JC: *this is also very good*)

6. The average number of hits (visits) is 22,800 a month between Jan-April (JC: *this is very good and if you subtract the 1,500 unique visitors from this figure, it means that 21,300 visits were made by the same 1500 monthly visitors, indicating their continued interest in the content*)

7. The amount of material that people download from this site on average is 186 items per month (JC: *meaning 6.2 items a day which is very good*)

8. The website has been visited by the following countries in the last month from highest to lowest: USA (1,180 visits), Germany (1,120 visits), Australia, Russian Federation, China, Great Britain, India, Italy, Ukraine (JC: *this is very good international exposure*)

9. In order of popularity, people are downloading: Stephen Austin's Summa, Valtorta's Writings & Scripture, the catalogue, the various refutation articles and responses written by Stephen Austin, MP3 rosary, and the Bulletins & Supplements.

10. People searching via Mozilla, Safari, Google Chrome, Firefox and Internet Explorer are reaching our website (JC: *some are keyword searches and some are referrals from other sites*)

Well, the figures have it. Feel free to e-mail Stephen directly at stephen@valtorta.org.au if you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or want to contribute information for future website updates. A big thank you to Johnny Cantarella for providing this information to us, and for his comments in brackets.

What can we say but thank you and may God continue to bless Stephen with abundant gifts to promote the writings of Maria Valtorta worldwide.

NEWS

John Lee is a devout Maria Valtorta reader, first and foremost, but he is also a playwright. He has written and produced musicals such as *The Call of Guadalupe* and *Saul Saul, Paul Paul*, which are performed in school theatres around Melbourne. There is no stopping John, who at 87, has written a musical on *Mary Magdalene* based on the writings of Maria Valtorta. In order to help the cast understand the fullness of Mary Magdalene's life, he gave each of them the thematic booklet that David compiled, and asked them to read it. Rehearsals are currently taking place for a performance in October. An update and further details will be included in the September issue.

REQUEST

In response to requests from people world-wide who want to be in touch with other Valtorta readers here are contacts for you:

Michael (Ireland) mkenedy100@gmail.com

Aloysius (Jakarta) [aloyus@aloyus-lawoffice.com](mailto:aloys@aloyus-lawoffice.com)

Breid (N. Ireland)

bcampbell877@stpiusx.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk

Darwin (Canada) authordarwin@gmail.com

Zara (Chicago, Illinois for a group meeting or USA for online contact) zara1223@gmail.com

Janice (USA) fiatvt@yahoo.com

Eileen (Eastern USA) haring1871@yahoo.com

Stephen (Midwest, USA) stephen@valtorta.org.au

CATALOGUE

The catalogue is now updated and included. No prices have been changed but we have had to delete a few items which are no longer available at a reasonable cost. Please contact us (via phone or e-mail) **to place an order and for postage costs**. All items are listed in Australian dollars.

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LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

Greetings from Kiembeni Parish, Mombasa, Kenya. We are a Catholic Community of about 2500 people with an outstation. I have had an interest in the books of Maria Valtorta ever since I was introduced to the reading of one of her books, *the Victim Soul*, in the novitiate many years ago. However, the interest in reading more of her books has been with me ever since. But since her books are not easily available and affordable in this part of the world, I do write to solicit for her books. Hence, I will greatly appreciate it if you can send me some for my spiritual reading, and also for the work of the parish in pastoring the souls entrusted to my care. I do believe that her books will help others and myself in our spiritual rejuvenation as we strive more to know and love Jesus. Wishing you the best in this apostolate of Maria Valtorta Readers Group. Thanks and remain blessed in the Lord.

[Ed: A few weeks later]

I want to thank and appreciate you for sending copies of the *Passion of Our Lord* as revealed to Maria Valtorta. I am very pleased to have them. You have made my day, and I have just 'devoured' half of the book by reading through it. It is making a delightful reading. How I wish I could get more, knowing the cost to you sending them through post over a long distance. Thank you very much and may the good Lord replenish you abundantly. Thanks and be blessed. Let us continue to pray for one another. I promise to uplift you and your apostolate during the Holy Masses. *Pius I. Nwankwo, CMF Kenya, East Africa*
[Ed: What spirit! Looks like he needs a second shipment]

I became acquainted with Maria Valtorta's works about 35 years ago. My mother was given a copy of *the Poem of the Man-God* by a most holy Bishop from California (Bishop Donald Montrose). I first read the *Poem* in English, then I read it two or three times in Spanish, and I am currently reading *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* (in English). I am also starting to read the *Notebooks*.

To say that this mystical literature is life-changing, is an understatement. With every reading, I feel like I fall in love with Jesus (Mary, Joseph and so many others), not to mention the Holy Catholic Church, with an intensity that could only come from God!

It is so gratifying and wonderful to know that there are others who are true believers of Maria Valtorta's writings! May God and our Blessed Mother bless you and the work that you are doing for the propagation of this most divine gift from our Lord!

Norma Wunsch, Albuquerque, New México

You do such a wonderful job of the Bulletin and Supplement. It is all so very interesting. Two things I particularly liked in this publication is your honest and simple explanation of the life and writings of Blessed Catherine Emmerich and comparing them with Maria Valtorta. And also Part Two of Marta Diciotti's book – thank you so much for translating this from Italian into English. I would love to be able to do that! Isn't it good to see Maria Valtorta through Marta's eyes who was involved so closely with Maria. I am looking forward to her book being published in English.

All went very well at the Auckland Eucharistic Convention again this year, with a few new readers taking *The*

Gospel as Revealed to Me. I hope and pray that they will now receive the grace of benefitting greatly from this gift of pure gold from God. Some *Notebooks* were bought, the *Prayers* book was popular this year, and of course many thematic extract booklets. I noticed this year that there are already many Valtorta readers present at these Eucharistic Conventions, and they all speak very highly and affectionately of her works. I was challenged a few times regarding having an Imprimatur for Valtorta's work so Stephen Austin's article *'The Position of the Church'* was very useful to hand to them. Also many copies of the A4 page on Maria Valtorta were distributed to those who had never heard of her. Once again it was a joy to meet up with N.Z. Readers' Group members who came to the stall as loving friends again. I believe even if only one person starts to read Maria's work and grows to know and love Jesus more, it is worth the effort of driving six hours and taking the books to this Convention.

Gwen Story, New Zealand

[Ed: Gwen is our N. Z. agent and we are truly grateful for her commitment to the apostolate]

Just from perusing through your website and newsletters, I can already tell you do Holy Spirit-filled phenomenal work; you help so many souls! Praise God. I love the iPhone app! It helps so much; I don't have to go through the books to look for the Sunday Gospel reading. I also am looking forward to receiving the quarterly newsletter. Please do share my email (see **Request** column) in case there are readers here in the USA (especially near Chicago, Illinois) that may be interested in gathering together. May God bless you always.

Zara, Chicago, Illinois USA

I have almost finished the *1943 Notebooks* and it is amazing! Just wish I had better memory retention! Definitely books you can read over and over, and still learn something every time.

Kelly Schroer Nelson, Nebraska, USA

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

Leon Le Grand- the man who introduced me and so many others to Maria Valtorta.

Josephine Jeyarani – mother of Brother Dominic Paulraj, from the monastery of Christ in the Desert, New Mexico.

May they rest in peace.

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is an online 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.]