

## MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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### BULLETIN No. 87 SEPTEMBER 2017

'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

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### EDITORIAL

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Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,  
Our lives consist of waves of happy moments, sad ones, hopeful times and struggles. While this edition of the **Bulletin** contains elements of all of these, I hope that we are strengthened by the Writings and by the companionship that Maria Valtorta Readers worldwide feel when we come together quarterly. Furthermore, we are very blessed because of all the holy priests who read the Works and who lift this apostolate and all of you in their prayers and Masses.

**Supplement: Part One:** It would be remiss of me not to mention Fatima in this 100-year anniversary as the *Notebooks* include some references to it and, at times, our Blessed Mother appeared to Maria as Our Lady of Fatima.

**Part Two:** In her many apparitions, Our Lady calls us not to sin but to follow the path to Jesus, so David Murray's column consists of selected excerpts which show that the inclination towards sin or towards holiness occurs little by little.

Growing in faith,  
Catherine Loft ([catherine@valtorta.org.au](mailto:catherine@valtorta.org.au))

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### DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

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Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,  
All of Maria's works are a joy to read but my contribution this quarter consists of some meaningful passages on Incrementalism that I have reflected on over the years. Refer to Part Two of the Supplement.

God Bless  
David Murray ([david@valtorta.org.au](mailto:david@valtorta.org.au))

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### CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

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Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,  
According to the Divine Mercy calendar hanging in each classroom, July is the month of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. So I informed the class that Elisabeth, Queen of Hungary, Matilda, and Bridget of Sweden (all of whom are now saints) wanted to know more about the Passion of Jesus Christ, so they said special prayers fervently. Jesus appeared to them and informed them that He lost 28,430 drops of blood (Cf. the *Pietà* prayer booklet). The students were alarmed by the quantity and surprised by the exact number given.

Jesus then said that if we say 2 Our Father's, 2 Hail Mary's and 2 Glory Be's every day for three years, then we will have honoured every drop of blood shed. I took the opportunity to stop at this point to focus on what Jesus sacrificed for us.

I then proceeded to tell them that not only did Jesus die and shed His blood for us but that Jesus also offered us five graces that were truly loving and merciful. The first, in simple terms, is that Jesus would forgive us our sins. We had just studied this unit so it reinforced what they learnt and they made the connection quickly. The second is that even though our sins would be forgiven and that we may still have to go to purgatory to atone for each sin, we wouldn't suffer the pain associated with that sin. They wanted to know how you suffer pain if you don't have a body. I explained as best I could that our soul has an imprint of our body. (I didn't make this up. One of the church greats that I read recently explained it like this.) They wondered if this explained why amputees often talk about still feeling pain or a sensation as if their lost limb were still there. Thirdly, if something were to happen to us before the three years were up, then it would be the same as though the three years had been completed. They were amazed by this and happy that God was so kind. Fourthly, if we complete it, then it will be the same as if we have shed all of our blood for the faith. They really responded well to this because we had also completed a unit on prophets and saints who had died for their faith and became martyrs. Was it another way of becoming a martyr perhaps without the pain and torture?! Lastly, and best of all, Jesus would personally come and deliver to Heaven, not only our soul but also those of our relatives to the fourth generation. That is, not just our immediate family down the line but also our relatives (moving sideways) which included so many more members of our lineage! This really impressed in them the goodness, love and mercy of God and the opportunity they had to save their relatives. They were in awe of these graces.

In order to increase their interest to want to do this, we focused on the passages of the five Sorrowful Mysteries in the bible where Jesus shed His blood, then all the Maria Valtorta excerpts that specifically mentioned the loss of blood: the sweat in the garden of Gethsemane, the scourging, the crowning with thorns, the carrying of the cross, and the Crucifixion with the nails and the spear

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which pierced the side of Jesus causing Him to shed the last drop. Then we took the time to remain quiet for a few minutes and ponder on what we had just read.

It was no surprise that they asked me if I had ever completed the three years and I told them that I had. (Goodness, they do look to adults to teach by example). I told them I had to find something I did daily to make sure I wouldn't forget. For me it was walking the dog at 6am and/or 5pm daily, come rain, hail or shine. They knew that I didn't teach them RE daily or on weekends, so they couldn't rely on our lessons to complete the three years. The students started sharing ideas on what they did regularly. They also pointed out that they wouldn't finish till 2020! I then informed them that we need to look at one day at a time; nothing more, nothing less.

Despite their sincere desire to want to honour Jesus (and receive the graces), I could see they were struggling. I knew they wanted to do it but they didn't know if they would remember to do it each day. So to relieve the disappointment that they were feeling and to ensure that the initiative would not be dismissed and put in the 'too hard' basket, I suggested we start all our RE classes praying these prayers as a group to honour the blood shed when Jesus died for us and leave the rest to God. They were content with that and felt that they were doing something important and meaningful after all.

By some plan of God, it was also my turn to lead reflection at our staff briefing that very same week, so I had the opportunity to introduce so many of my colleagues to this same devotion. (People are never too old to learn.) Let's hope a few more adults will undertake this generous and loving gesture too.

I planted the seed.

Catherine ([catherine@valtorta.org.au](mailto:catherine@valtorta.org.au))

For information about this devotion, see: <http://www.catholictradition.org/Christ/true-letter.htm>

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### READER'S CHOICE

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Dear Readers,

When I read Maria Valtorta's works and what Jesus said about His Passion and the extent of His sufferings as revealed from the Holy Shroud, I believed without a doubt in this Holy Relic. I do not need the proof that Jesus talks about in this chosen passage. However, when I continue to read and be amazed at so many of the explanations given in books about the Holy Shroud written by various authors on a historical, medical, scientific and non-religious perspective, my hope is that so many more people will become believers by the proof given (for those who need it) because in my heart, I want the whole world to be in awe of this Holy Shroud so that they will come to know and love our awesome and loving God.

Veronica Marshall, Melbourne, Victoria

(Jesus says:)

'My organs were not exempted from suffering. Not one of them. Suffocation and cough for My lungs, contused by the cruel scourging, and suffering from oedema because of the position on the cross. Breathlessness and heart trouble as My heart was out of its place and had been injured by the merciless flagellation, by the moral grief that had preceded it, by the ascent under the heavy weight of the cross, by anaemia, the consequence of all the blood shed. Liver congested, spleen congested, kidneys bruised and congested.

You have seen the crown of bruises round My kidneys. Your scientists, to give proof to your incredulity with regard to that evidence of My suffering, which is the Shroud, explain how the blood, the cadaveric perspiration and the urea of an over-fatigued body, when mixed with the spices, can have produced that natural drawing of My dead tortured Body.

It would be better to believe without the need of so many proofs to believe. It would be better to say: "That is the work of God" and bless God, Who has granted you an indisputable proof of My Crucifixion and of the tortures preceding it!

But as now you are no longer able to believe with the simplicity of children, but you need scientific proofs – how poor is your faith, that without the support and the spur of science cannot stand up straight and walk – you must know that the cruel bruises of My kidneys have been the most powerful chemical agent in the miracle of the Shroud. My kidneys, almost crushed by the scourges, were no longer able to work. Like those of people burnt by fire, they were unable to filter, and urea accumulated and spread in My blood, in My body, bringing about the sufferings of uraemic intoxication and the reagent that oozed out of My corpse and fixed the impression on the cloth. But any doctor among you, or anyone suffering from uraemia, will realise what sufferings the uraemic toxins caused to Me, as they were so plentiful as to produce an indelible impression.

Thirst. What a torture thirst! And yet you have seen it. Among so many, there was not one who gave Me a drop of water. From the Supper onwards, I had no refreshment. And fever, sunshine, heat, dust, loss of blood, made your Saviour so thirsty.

You have seen that I refused the wine mixed with myrrh. I did not want any lenitive for My suffering. When we offer ourselves as victims, we must be victims without pitiful arrangements, compromises, mitigations. It is necessary to drink the chalice as it is offered. We must relish the vinegar and gall to the very end. Not the spiced wine that deadens pain.

Oh! The destiny of a victim is really severe. But blessed are those who chose it as their fate.'

**(The Poem, Vol.5 pp. 668-9; The Gospel, Vol. 10 p.198)**

(Jesus says:)

'And there are three things bearing witness on the earth to my true Humanity: the spirit I gave back, like all men, after a painful agony, my Blood, shed in the Passion, and the water which issued from my lifeless side together with the final drops of cadaveric blood gathered into the cavity of my dead Heart. Now, you know that only a real body yields blood if wounded and that only a real corpse presents a separation of the watery part of the blood (which you term 'serum') from the other, which coagulates into clots or at least is already thicker and darker than living blood, if the time elapsed between death and the discharge of blood is still too short. But I, as my Turin Shroud attests, discharged blood that was already clotted because I had already been dead for some time when my side was stricken, and I was already growing cold and stiff, very quickly, on account of the specific conditions which had brought about my rapid death.'

**(Notebooks 1945-50, 18 February, 1947 entry, pp. 359-0)**

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(Maria says:)

The Lord said to me, while I was thinking about everything but mystical questions and was doing needlework, repairing household linen:

'My Turin Shroud, Oh Maria, for whoever is able to see, is not just a testimony that I truly died and rose again, but also testifies to the way I was conceived and born, not according to the laws of humanity. It is thus a confirmation of the truths that my Religion teaches: my being conceived through the action of the Holy Spirit, the Divine Maternity of Mary, her perpetual virginity, my passion and death, and my glorious resurrection. But this is confirmation for those to whom it is granted to see, in the light of God.'

(*Notebooks 1945-50, 20 May, 1949 entry, p.524*)

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### STEPHEN'S UPDATE

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Dear Valtorta Readers,

There are two new pages on the **Maria Valtorta Readers' Group** website. Please share them. Both will be described below.

**JCL Thesis: The Current Juridic and Moral Value of the Index of Forbidden Books (with Maria Valtorta Case Study)**

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/index-of-forbidden-books.html>

*What is this JCL Thesis?*

Fr. Anthony Pillari published a JCL thesis for the Faculty of Canon Law of St. Paul University entitled "The Current Juridic and Moral Value of the Index of Forbidden Books". This thesis gives the history of the Index of Forbidden Books, explains the current juridic and moral status of the Index of Forbidden Books after its abrogation by Pope Paul VI in 1966, and includes a case study analyzing and explaining the canonical status of the major work of Maria Valtorta. The Maria Valtorta case study demonstrates that when a person chooses to read, publish or promote Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God* (now entitled *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*), there is no violation of ecclesiastical law. It also analyzes the relevant letters of Cardinal Ratzinger, Bishop Tettamanzi, Bishop Kindukulam, and Bishop Danylak, and shows that a Catholic may express belief in the supernatural origin of Valtorta's work and promote it as such without being in violation of ecclesiastical law or being guilty of any form of disobedience. Fr. Pillari's thesis also details the admiration that three beatified persons have publicly expressed concerning Valtorta's work (including Blessed Allegra's belief in its supernatural origin) and that their beatification invites Catholics to respect and share their opinion concerning Valtorta's work, even in some ways above the private opinions of Church officials who have not been raised to the level of beatification. Of special significance in this thesis is the inclusion of a signed testimonial letter of Fr. Leo Maasburg, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Austria and a close associate of Mother Teresa of Calcutta (canonized in 2016). Fr. Maasburg's testimonial relates that Mother Teresa carried Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God* with her in her travels, read this work, and recommended him to also read it.

**Literary Fiction or Ancient Astronomical and Meteorological Observations in the Work of Maria Valtorta?**

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/valtorta-astronomy-meteorology.html>

*What is this Article?*

In the scientific journal *Scienze e Ricerche (Science and Research)*, Professor Emilio Matricciani of the Department of Electronics, Information, and Bioengineering (DEIB) at the Polytechnic of Milan, and Dr. Liberato De Caro of the Institute of Crystallography, National Research Council (IC-CNR), Bari Polytechnic, co-authored an article entitled "Finzione letteraria o antiche osservazioni astronomiche e meteorologiche nell'opera di Maria Valtorta?" ("Literary fiction or ancient astronomical and meteorological observations in the work of Maria Valtorta?"). Here is the abstract from the article:

'*The Gospel As Revealed to Me (L'Evangelo come mi è stato rivelato)* is the main literary work by Maria Valtorta (1897-1961), written while she was bedridden for serious health problems in the years between the end of World War II and the first years after the war. In her voluminous work she reports detailed descriptions of uses, customs, landscape of Palestine at the time of Jesus of Nazareth, a large quantity of information of every kind: historical, archaeological, astronomical, geographical and meteorological. The richness of narrative elements has allowed the pursuit of many studies on her literary work because she states that it is not due to her imagination, but that she has written down everything she watched "in vision". This should not be possible based only on logical reasoning because, as far as we know, it is not possible to have visions on past events which, in this case, would refer to 2000 years ago when Jesus walked the roads of Palestine. However, by a detailed analysis of explicit and implicit calendar information, such as reference to lunar phases, constellations, planets visible in the night sky while she tells what is happening, verifiable with the Astronomy, it is ascertained that every event described implies a precise chronological reference – day, month, year – without being explicitly reported. For example, from this analysis it is inferred that the crucifixion should have occurred on Friday 23 April in the year 34, which coincides with one of the dates of the crucifixion deducible with the help of Astronomy. Maria Valtorta has recorded also the days with rain and this allows a statistical test with the current meteorological data of Palestine, under the hypothesis of random observations and no important changes regarding daily frequency of rainfall in Palestine. The annual or monthly average frequencies of rainy days deduced from the data available from the Israel Meteorological Service, and the similar frequencies deduced from the analysis of the Maria Valtorta's work, agree very well. These results are surprising and unexpected, and no scientific explanation seems to be immediate.'

God bless you all!

Stephen ([stephen@valtorta.org.au](mailto:stephen@valtorta.org.au))

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### REFUTATION OR NOT?

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Nothing in Maria Valtorta's Works go against faith or morals but there are people who wish to grasp at straws to disprove their authenticity by pointing out what they perceive to be an inaccuracy. One of these is Maria Valtorta's reference to a screwdriver.

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In my recent casual exploration, I came across a site which reports:

**'EARLY SCREWS:** Around the first century, screw-shaped tools became common, however, historians do not know who invented the first. Early screws were made from wood and were used in wine presses, olive oil presses, and for pressing clothes. Metal screws and nuts used to fasten two objects together first appeared in the fifteenth century.' <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-screws-and-screwdrivers-1992422>

For further and far more effective refutations, do visit Stephen Austin's ***Summa and Encyclopedia on Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work*** on our website

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### MARY MAGDALENE PLAY

In our last edition, you were informed that artist, playwright and avid Maria Valtorta reader, John Lee, had written a play on Mary Magdalene, part of which included his readings about her life from the Writings. However, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that John Lee (aged 87) died two weeks after the June edition was released. His illness was sudden and he was only given a short time to live. However, his work was his life so his loving family, friends and the production team have kept this play alive. Here are the details of the shows (only in Melbourne).

#### **Magdalene: A WANTON SAINT**

Renaissance Theatre, Kew High School  
826 High Street, Kew (Tram 48)

Wednesday 4 October 7:00pm

Thursday 5 October 7:00pm

Friday 6 October 7:00pm

Saturday 7 October 1:00 pm & 7:00pm

**Prices:** VIP seats- \$35, General - \$25

Concession - \$15

Children (under 12) - \$5

Group bookings, 5 and over \$20pp

To book tickets: [www.trybooking.com/QZMG](http://www.trybooking.com/QZMG)

Enquiries/Details: [www.callofguadalupe.com](http://www.callofguadalupe.com)

Ph: (03) 8692 0360 Mob: 0488 333 737 (Patrick)

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### RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Please contact us (via phone or e-mail) to place an order, for postage costs and for payment method. All items are listed in Australian dollars.

**Please note:** All personal cheques for books and/or for membership renewal for hardcopy bulletins (in Australia only) should be made payable to **Catherine Loft** only as the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group account was closed when David handed over to me.

**1. The Holy Shroud and the Visions of Maria Valtorta.**

SC 239p \$30.00

**2. The End of Times Prophecies from the Word of God through the Writings of Maria Valtorta,** SC 92p \$11.00

**3. The Story of Mary Magdalene.** 30p. \$3.50

**4. A Reader's Guide to Maria Valtorta's Other Writings** WB 136p \$16.00

**5. Clear plastic covers** (new design) which fit the volumes of the *Gospel as Revealed to Me* and the *Notebooks*. \$1.00 each.

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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 am writing [again] in acknowledgement of the [second shipment] of books you sent, and to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and to all who have contributed in one way or another in facilitating the possession of these Valtorta's books. I remain profoundly grateful. IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE NAMES OF THE DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED IF, FOR NOTHING ELSE, I CAN UPLIFT THEM IN MY PRAYERS AND DAILY MASSES. Once again, thank you very, very much, dear Catherine. and be abundantly blessed and enriched in your apostolate. **Pius I. Nwankwo, CMF Kenya, East Africa**

[Ed: Thank you to those people who donated so generously that Fr. Pius in Kenya was able to receive many more Maria Valtorta books. You will remain anonymous as requested but I did pass on your names to Fr. Pius because who else will reward your generosity so richly than a holy priest! Through your donation, you have done a great thing because when we provide reading material for another person, only that person and a few of their friends will benefit. However, when you provide for a holy priest, such as Fr. Pius, then his words will spill out to his whole parish of 2,500 people in his homily and they too will be blessed with the fruits of these works.]

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

**Jack Aloysius Landy** - long-time member of the Maria Valtorta. Readers' Group from Canberra, Australia

**John Lee** – avid reader and original member of Maria Valtorta Readers' monthly book club from Melbourne, Australia.

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 (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.]*