

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia
Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine@valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>



MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 89 MARCH 2018

'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,

This quarter, I have been receiving calls and emails from enthusiastic people in Australia and overseas who have been introduced to Maria Valtorta's Works through a friend or an acquaintance.

There is no stopping a devout Reader in Queensland who gently invites so many people to read the *Passion* booklet that he gifts them as a starter. There is also another Reader from the U.S.A who says, 'I just viewed the video on your website of Jesus and Evolution. It was wonderful and I forwarded it to many people!' This apostolate belongs to us all and it is uplifting that some are sharing what they are doing with us. What joy that the Works are being read by more people.

Furthermore, Fr. Pius, who was sent Maria Valtorta material at his request, has been moved from his parish in Kenya to one in Tanzania. Hopefully, he will inspire and introduce a new community to these Works through his homilies.

Bulletin: Read **Stephen's Update** which includes some wonderful news that is a real blessing for our Readers. We may have to call ourselves the Maria Valtorta Readers and **Listeners'** Group soon. I think we will all be even happier when someone makes a movie based on Maria Valtorta's Works. I also think that devout Readers worldwide would love to see her canonisation take place. Read this column in the Bulletin and keep praying.

Supplement: At the start of each academic year, I put a Divine Mercy calendar in all of the classrooms I teach. I have six different groups in six different rooms. I think this is a real blessing because instead of putting up one calendar, it means that I have six calendars in place which allows many more students using those rooms to notice them! As I was setting up January, I realised it was the month of the Holy Name of Jesus and I was inspired to make this the

subject of **Catherine's Classroom** and the theme of this edition of the Supplement.

During this season of Lent, Passion Week and Good Friday, may we all offer Jesus some comfort just like the angels did when they came to minister to Him in the Desert. (*cf. Matthew 4:11*)

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

There's a short definition of hope, which I love. It is described as 'A Passion for the Possible'.

A well-known saying – purported to be from Padre Pio – is: 'Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry'. My take on this is: The more I hope, the less I worry. And the more I worry, the less I hope.

In a recent reading, I re-discovered a passage where Maria Valtorta writes of hope as a 'yoke'...

(Jesus is speaking to His apostles about the virtues of faith, hope and charity, and says:)

'Do you remember when I told you that Hope is like the cross-bar of the kind yoke supporting Faith and Charity, and it is the scaffold of mankind and the throne of salvation? You do? But you have not understood My words in their true meaning... It is a yoke because it compels man to lower his silly pride under the weight of eternal truths. And it is the scaffold of such pride. The man who hopes in God, his Lord unavoidably mortifies his pride that would like him to be proclaimed his "god". He acknowledges that he is nothing and God is everything, that he can do nothing and God can do everything, and that man is transient dust and God is eternity, elevating to a higher degree and rewarding man with eternity.

Man nails himself to his holy cross to reach Life. The flames of Faith and Charity nail him to his cross, but Hope – which is between the former and the latter – elevate towards Heaven. But remember the lesson: if charity is lacking, the throne is without light. And the body, un-nailed on one side, hangs towards mud and no longer sees Heaven. It thus cancels the wholesome effects of Hope, and ends up by making sterile also Faith. Because when

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris. Victoria. 3146 Australia

Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine@valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

one is detached from two of the three theological virtues, one falls into languor and deadly chill.

Do not reject God even in the least things. And to refuse to assist one's neighbour through heathen pride is to reject God.

My Doctrine is a yoke that bends guilty mankind; it is a mallet that breaks the hard bark to free its spirit. It is a yoke and a hammer indeed. And yet, he who accepts it does not feel the tiredness that all other doctrines and all other human things give. He who allows himself to be struck by it does not feel the pain of being crushed in his human ego, but feels a sensation of liberation.

Why do you endeavour to get rid of it to replace it with what is lead and pain? You all have your sorrows and your difficulties. All mankind has sorrows and difficulties, which at times are beyond human strength: from children like this one who is already carrying on his little shoulders a heavy weight ... to the old man who is declining towards his sepulchre with all the disappointments, troubles, burdens and wounds of his long life. But in My Doctrine and in My Faith, there is the relief from all such overwhelming burdens. That is why it is called the "Gospel". And he who accepts it and obeys will be blessed on the earth. And also he will have God to comfort him, and Virtues to make his way easy and bright. [And they are] good sisters who, holding him by the hand with lit lamps, illuminate his way until... yielding in peace his tired body to the earth, he awakes in Paradise...'

(The Poem, Vol. 2, pp. 716-7; The Gospel, Vol. 4, pp. 306-7)

May God bless and keep you all.

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

The students returned to a new school year on 30 January, in the very month which is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**.

So in an attempt to follow through on my idea from the December issue on getting the Religion class to do 10-minutes of spiritual reading at the start of each lesson, I thought that we could start with Father Paul O'Sullivan's booklet, *The Wonders of the Holy Name*.

I was so tempted to introduce it by lecturing them about the disrespect given to Jesus' name by people of all ages, as well as in the movie industry. I was tempted to alert them to the fact that it was commonplace and habitual to the extent that some people didn't even realise they were blaspheming. I was tempted to remind them about the second commandment on using the Lord's name in vain. I was tempted to point out how respect has always been given to the names of Buddha, Mohammed and Allah, and yet the movie industry and people in general treat the name of Jesus – the only person who died in such a brutal way for the salvation of His people – far less respectfully even hundreds of years later. Oh, I was so tempted to point out a litany of negativities, but I didn't. This beautiful book was all about the positives of calling on Jesus' name, and that is what I wanted the students to know so I said nothing.

They entered the room and for the first 10 minutes, there was utter silence during which they read about the Holy Name of Jesus. They learnt that saying the name of Jesus was the shortest and most powerful prayer. They learnt to ask God for things in Jesus' name. That whenever they say the name of Jesus, they should offer God all the Masses being said throughout the world and therefore, they would have a share in the merits of these Masses too. That if they offer up saying the name of Jesus for the souls in Purgatory, they would be making powerful friends who would pray for them. That by saying Jesus' name anytime, anywhere from the heart, they would be reminding themselves that Jesus is present with them throughout the day. That the Apostles used the name of Jesus to bring about physical, mental or spiritual healings. That the name of Jesus would protect them from the devil. That the name of Jesus could bring them peace, love and joy. (And their favourite), that when they say Jesus' name with love, they would get 300 days indulgence each time. (I still have to explain the Church's teachings on indulgences to them but they love the idea that they can accumulate 'something' to benefit them later).

We ended reading time with a prayer that they would be conscious of their own use of Jesus' name, that they would step up and ask those they know to 'watch their language' when their friends are being disrespectful, or to say the prayer 'Blessed be God, Blessed be His Holy Name' when they hear strangers blaspheming. However, most importantly, they came to know that just saying Jesus' name devoutly was a prayer with so many blessings.

In picking a passage From Maria Valtorta's writings, I wanted to keep the tone positive so I couldn't resist sharing the humble but comical passage about James working a miracle in Jesus' name and apologising for it. (It really should be staged.) We also looked at the passage about the grandmother of one of the Holy Innocents. (Refer to the Supplement)

I planted the seed

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

READER'S CHOICE

Over the years, I have read the Resurrection passage in the Gospel and I have heard it read at Mass many times, but this time, Matthew 27:52-3 about the Empty Tomb caught my attention.

'And the graves were opened: and many bodies of the saints that had slept arose, And coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, came into the holy city, and appeared to many.' (**Douay Reims**)

I truly never realised this. So I referred to Valtorta for more detail on this reference and I came across this passage that suggests that the dead actually did appear to people at that time.

In one of the many dark archivolts, the apparition of Nicodemus dressed in white wool – because, in order to be quicker, he has taken off his dark mantle on Golgotha – causes a fleeing Pharisee to utter a cry of terror. He then realises that it is Nicodemus and he clings to his

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia

Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine@valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

neck with a strange effusion, shouting: 'Don't curse me! My mother appeared to me and said: "Be cursed for ever!" ' and then he collapses on the ground moaning: 'I'm afraid! I'm afraid!'

'They are all mad!' say the two men.

They arrive at the Praetorium. And it is only here, while waiting to be received by the Proconsul, that Joseph and Nicodemus understand the reason for so much terror. Many sepulchres had been opened by the earthquake, and there were people who swore that they had seen skeletons come out of them, and that for a moment they resumed human appearance and were going about accusing and cursing those who were guilty of the deicide.' (*The Poem*, Vol, 5, pp..624-5; *The Gospel*, Vol 10, p.143)

V. Galea, Geelong, Victoria

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

Maria Valtorta's *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* is now available on audio on iTunes and Audible.

Father Peter Bowes narrates Valtorta's writings in these audio files. You can learn more about this audio on their website here:

<https://valtortaonaudio.com/>

Father Peter Bowes has a contract with the copyright holder of Maria Valtorta's writings (Centro Editoriale Valtortiano) and it is done with their approval.

You can listen to a short sample of the audiobook on YouTube here: <http://y2u.be/-SQ-MQzSva8>

This is the only complete collection of audio of every chapter of Maria Valtorta's work and it is a great and exciting enterprise to have her entire work available in audio in English for the first time.

Also remember to check out our website for additional Maria Valtorta audio as well, which includes Sunday Gospel readings, the rosary meditation audio, and selected passages on Our Lady.

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

MARIA VALTORTA GATHERING 2018

Melbourne, Australia. A gathering will take place for people who would like to meet with other like-minded Readers to share Valtorta passages and their personal journey with Maria Valtorta on Sunday, 14 October, 2018. More details to come but if you are from interstate or overseas, then please email Catherine for more details of the venue.

Paris, France held a Maria Valtorta Conference on Tuesday 16 January 2018.

Viareggio, Italy holds a Mass and talks monthly. The last was 12 February, 2018

So if you are travelling, do visit the Maria Valtorta Italian and French websites.

PRAYING FOR MARIA VALTORTA'S CANONISATION

Our Lord granted many people great graces to work miracles. There are some whose intercession was sought after their death but for others, their

intercession was sought during their lifetime. Maria Valtorta was one of them. Maria's carer and companion, Marta Diciotti, wrote a book, *Una Vita con Maria Valtorta (A Life with Maria Valtorta)*. In past supplements, excerpts from her book were included which informed us that people were cured through Maria's intercession. Not much is said on this matter but here is what Maria says in such a humble way.

'A reflection on a discourse which is reported to me where it is stated that my prayers are relied on heavily [to obtain favors], for it has been recognized that what I have asked for has come true.

It doesn't cause me any pride, but a deeper gratitude to God, who is so good as to allow me to be able to obtain the happiness of other hearts. But to these hearts I want to say – and I will say – that it is not through my merit that this occurs. All could arrive at the same capacity if they wanted to. There is no method or special study to arrive at this power of entreaty. What matters is to make one's heart a Bethlehem manger in which to receive the infant Jesus and make oneself a cross to bear Jesus the Redeemer. When we bear Him that way – indissolubly – we become nothing but a complement to Him, and He alone is the real protagonist of all things. The secret to obtaining all the graces which our fellow man attributes to our nonexistent merits is exclusively this annihilation of ours in Christ, so complete as to dissolve our human personality and oblige Jesus to act alone in every event. All we do is take to Him the voices of individuals joined to a kiss of love. He does the rest." (*Notebooks 1943, p.20*)

Maria also says:

'...my defeats have not discouraged me. I have continued all the same to speak of God, even when convinced I am speaking to an impenetrable heart. I have continued to pray and act, indifferent to the gestures of irony and rudeness and the disappointments. Something will clearly remain in those hearts! Don't you think so? And God will do the rest. The defeats serve to show me that, without God's help, I am less than nothing. The victories serve to show me that God's benignity is so fatherly and superb that He is always ready to hear us when we ask for what is just and to help us when we do our best for the sake of his honor.

I told you about that girl saved from death. And I won't repeat myself. I told you orally that not one of those I have entrusted to the Lord, among the soldiers in combat, has died. Furthermore, I can add that I obtain many of the things I request for others. Indeed, it is quite unlikely for me not to obtain them. Jesus is so good that He refuses nothing I request for my brothers and sisters. If anything, He is more hesitant regarding me, about things I request for myself.

But perhaps it is because I pray more for others than for myself and also do not resort to certain-draconian-means on my own behalf which make it impossible for the good Jesus to deny me something. It may also be because I know how to say "thank you" to Jesus when He grants me a favor. There are so few who know how to say that "thanks" to Him which is not refused even to the street sweeper who cleans the sidewalk for us...! The good Lord is treated like a servant obliged to content us and the

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris. Victoria. 3146 Australia

Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine@valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

good Lord so desires to hear the words "Thank You, Father!"

(*Notebooks 1943 pp.36-7*)

Let us all ask for Maria's intervention and all we need do is just 'Pray, Hope and Don't Worry.' Everything in God's time.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

BOOKS

I have one Volume 2 and one Volume 3 of *The Poem of the Man-God* in excellent condition for \$35.00 each plus postage. If you are missing a copy to complete your set, please contact me.

I also have a new design of clear plastic covers that fit the *Gospel as Revealed to Me* edition and the *Notebooks*. The cost is \$1.00 each, which is cost price.

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

The Poem of the Man-God (The Gospel as Revealed to Me) has changed my life forever and for the better! ...

When reading the Gospel as it was told to Maria, I become totally lost in the writings, transported to the time of Jesus. I actually feel as though I'm walking with Our Lord and his Apostles, standing in the crowd when Our Lord spoke at the Sermon on the Mount, or when He healed a blind person. I was right there.... or at times like a little fly on the wall listening and taking everything in. A very mystical experience, if I may say.

What a wonderful perspective Maria Valtorta provided, recording everything she saw and heard, from meeting places, conversations, weather conditions and all the great moments from our Lord.

So engrossed in my reading, I sometimes even forget that I'm reading and can even feel and smell the crisp cool air with the aroma of oats/wheat and flowers, as the beginning of spring starts the growing process of crops and plants. Or the beaming rays from the sun on a hot summer's afternoon. It's all there to take in. You can even sense the mugginess of a hot rainy day. Maria did a wonderful job in her descriptions. Our Lord picked the perfect person to do His will!

Walking to Calvary with Our Lord was very painful. The only comfort was a centurion, Longinus, leading the way to Golgotha, showing much compassion towards our Lord, and doing his best to ease Jesus' burden. Surely his place in Heaven is not denied.

If you want to walk with Our Lord Jesus you can with *The Poem of the Man-God (The Gospel as Revealed to Me)*. I could go on and on... One who loves the Lord will be filled with much Love for reading this Work. I'm so glad I found your website.

May God Bless You always,

Mark C. Lawrence, New Jersey, USA

Further to our conversations about the *True Letter of our Lord Jesus Christ* (Bulletin No. 87), I have found my appreciation deepening for the wonders of what God has done for us through Jesus, especially in connection to His sacrifice. I think this is a grace of God as some of it is as 'lights' – i.e. a further grasp of what was already familiar territory, deepening – and a wider understanding. This is really great as Mass becomes more meaningful – every day, everything becomes more amazing! Also, in *Notebooks 1944* I randomly found May 18th and would you believe it? It is about the Blood.

I wonder if others are doing the 6 daily prayers in honour of those precious drops of Blood. Blessings and Love in our Lord, **A reader from New Zealand**
[Ed: You will be pleased to know that many more people have been introduced to this devotion and they have informed me of their intention to do it]

I am three quarters of the way through the *1945-50 Notebook* and I am continually amazed at what I keep reading! I actually have a friend ... that is going to Florence, Italy the first week of April. I had just read in a footnote a few days ago in the *Notebook*, that Maria's body is next to the Basilica there (which I had not remembered) and I was so excited that I called my friend to tell her she has to visit it while she's there! She just recently started reading *The Poem*. She is really excited now too that she is going over there! ...So what an awesome gift to be going to that city and now she will get to visit her tomb while there!
Kelly Schroer, U.S.A

SUBSCRIPTION – HARDCOPY

All hardcopy subscriptions are due annually in March but please note that the yearly cost has been reduced to \$10.00 for your convenience. Some have paid at random times, so if you are unsure if you are up-to-date, please email me.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of
John Dominic Murray – son of David Murray, Maria Valtorta Readers' Group Founder
May he rest in peace.

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is a non-profit online 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 \$10.00 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.]