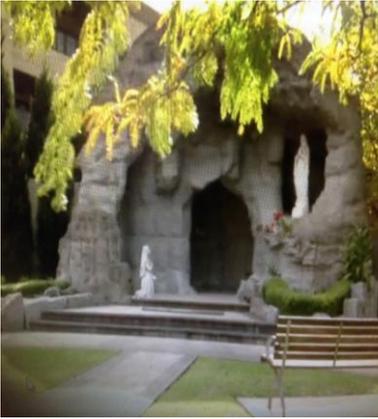


MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 91 SEPTEMBER 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,

Bulletin: August, September and October are very Marian on the Church calendar - August, the month of the Immaculate Heart, September, the month of Our Lady's Seven Sorrows and October, the month of the Holy Rosary. The *Catherine's Classroom* column has a Marian theme this quarter too. The *David's Journey - Continues* column contains a wonderful passage similar to the mindset of St. Therese of Lisieux's little ways. This passage is particularly in sync with those who have had an Italian upbringing where offering up food or a drink (for the souls of the deceased in particular) was instilled from a young age. Above is a photo of the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is a replica of the one in France. It is located at St. Joseph's Church in Malvern, where we will attend Mass at the Maria Valtorta Gathering (details on page 4).

Supplement: It is interesting to note that *the Gospel as Revealed to Me (Poem of the Man-God)* mainly presents Maria's priceless and vivid observations of what was taking place as she saw it albeit that sometimes a dictation or explanation was also given by Jesus. However, it is interesting to note what is written in the *1944 Notebooks* where Our Lady gives Maria an in-depth and insightful explanation about her Seven Sorrows, and what she was really feeling at the time. In addition, many people wonder what Our Blessed Mother looks like while others are confused by the discrepancy between the different apparitions. Our Lady explains to Maria why this occurs too.

Growing in faith

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

Very tender Mother, unveil for us the secrets of your Immaculate Heart. Cause one of your gentle and most pure rays to penetrate our hearts, transform them and prepare them for the divine visits of the Holy Spirit. Yes, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, unveil the secrets of your heart for me, and prepare mine with your light. (*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p. 13)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Chaplet of the Holy Family

A largely overlooked but very special Readers' Group production is the 'Chaplet of the Holy Family' - a single audio CD and transcript booklet - arranged like a Rosary with five decades: *Man & Woman; The Soul of a Child; Wife & Mother; Husband & Father; and Redemption of the Family.*

Most of the passages in this Chaplet were taken from two previous Readers' Group booklets: *Marriage & Family Life – With Jesus, Mary & Joseph*; and *The Strength & Power of Woman*. Some years ago, this Chaplet was prayed with a very special group – travelling by car in Canada. Its effect was extraordinary. Mary McBride – a Canadian - speaks of this experience: '*We were most excited with the CD of the Chaplet of the Holy Family and wish to share it. I also cannot understand why it does not sell so abundantly, but maybe the time for it is close at hand.*'

This Chaplet is available as a CD and/or transcript booklet on the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group catalogue, but the sound-track will be available for downloading very soon on the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website www.valtorta.org.au.

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A Passage on Fasting

[Revisiting Volume 3 of *The Poem of the Man-God* recently, I discovered this passage on Fasting, which I had previously overlooked].

(In the presence of Jesus and some others, Peter is speaking with his adopted son Marjiam, who has been fasting by refusing to eat honey-cakes which have been given to him.

(Marjiam is telling Peter:) '[Jesus] says that great is the reward in Heaven even for a cup of water offered in His name. I think that if it is great for a cup of water given to other people in His name (Cf. Mt. 10:42, Mk. 9:41), it must be great also for a cake or a little honey which one gives up out of love for a brother. Am I wrong, Master?'

(Jesus replies:) 'No, you have spoken wisely [...] The communion of saints is just this continuous activity, as God works continuously and in every way, to assist our brothers both in their material and spiritual needs, or in both [...] Even a spoonful of honey, offered as a sacrifice, can help to bring peace and hope to an afflicted soul as a cake. Or any other food given up out of love may obtain some bread, offered miraculously, for some starving person who is remote from us and will never be known to us. And an angry word not uttered out of spirit of sacrifice, although justified, may prevent a remote crime, [just] as to resist the desire to pick a fruit out of love, may bring about [a change of mind or heart] in a thief and thwart a theft. Nothing is lost in the holy economy of universal love: neither the heroic sacrifice of a boy before a dish of honey cakes, nor the holocaust of a martyr. Nay, I tell you that the holocaust of a martyr often originates from the heroic up-breeding imparted to him since his childhood, for the love of God and his neighbour...'

(The Poem, Vol. 3, pp. 184-5; The Gospel, Vol. 5, p. 94)

God bless,

David Murray david@valtorta.org.au

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

One of my favourite units in the Religion course is on Mary because not only does it focus on the Woman but on the supernatural as well, which is what the students really enjoy.

We looked at the number of worldwide Marian apparitions. However, the class was a little disappointed that there wasn't a public one in Australia. The students were then asked to research two in depth: Our Lady of Fatima (they

were particularly interested in, and commented on, the three vision/secrets) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (they were captivated by the slideshow of the miraculous Tilma). However, they did wonder why Mary looked different in the various apparitions and tried to use logic and reason to explain what Mary really looks like. So I read them the passage from Maria Valtorta's **1944 Notebooks** (see Supplement). This helped make some sense of it. I topped this with what Maria Valtorta says about Jesus but which also applies to Mary.

'Jesus lowers His head and smiles at the little group with a smile the sweetness of which **no painter will ever be able to portray, and no believer who has ever seen it, will ever be able to imagine.**'

(The Poem, Vol. 1, p.352 ; The Gospel, Vol.1, p.424)

In addition to this, the class then analysed three of the many images/paintings of Mary of their choice: the setting, the content, the colours, the symbolism, the facial expression, the direction of her eyes, the camera angle and the context. The students presented these to their peers and I was surprised that many of them were able to go that step further and identify which part of Mary's life was being depicted. A few even referred to the book of Revelation. (Maybe I shouldn't be surprised by that one!)

The next step was to look at Marian devotions. It is no secret that although 80% of students have a Catholic background, there are a few who are Protestant or who have other religious/spiritual beliefs. I like to take advantage of this opportunity to explain to all of them that Catholics do not worship Mary - we venerate and honour her. We call on her (as we would our own mother at home) to join with us in appealing to God for special requests that we may have. They understood. This is important because I know that one thing that divides Catholics and people of other faiths is Mary and the saints, so I wanted to clarify this to the students so they had a clear understanding of **the truth** that they could take back to their homes and communities. (Yes, apologetics in the making).

They next progressed to Marian devotions. (They especially like the ones with promises attached.) First we reviewed the biblical and intercessory aspect of the **Hail Mary**, then the devotion of the **three Hail Marys**. This was followed by **the Angelus** which was sprinkled

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with Hail Marys, then **the Holy Rosary**. I used Maria Valtorta's scripture rosary to help them understand and grasp the idea of how to meditate while reciting the Hail Marys. I didn't push my luck too far though – I just sampled a decade with them. (Thanks once again to the Bove family who donated two class sets of rosary beads to the school). Finally, the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows (my personal favourite). They now understood how to meditate - their knowledge of the bible helped with the first three Sorrows but having watched **The Passion of the Christ**, they certainly didn't need any help visualising the other four Sorrows!

September is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary I am looking forward to praying and meditating on one sorrow at the start of each lesson with them. It is important to get young people to pray as individuals and in a community, and to quote the misquoted Neil Armstrong (who died on 25 August), which I have applied to **Prayer** - 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.'

Who knows how it will go.

I am planting the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

FYI

David put together the transcripts for the Novus Ordo Mass which he and another MV reader later recorded over many years. I am not at all that noble or gifted but I plan to put together a transcript of the Tridentine Sunday Mass gospel readings followed by the Maria Valtorta equivalent at the request of a reader. My intention is heart-felt and selfless but please pray for me so that my efforts will be fruitful to serve God.

READER'S CHOICE

Dear Readers,

Just think how you would feel on receiving a 'farewell letter' like this from the closest person in the world to you, someone who had accompanied you through all hardships and difficulties, and now had to go away.

Peter Kelley, Camberwell, Victoria.

(Maria says;) I have Your promise in me. I know that I shall not lose You. You have promised me and Your promise is sincere: it is the promise of God. I will still have You, for ever [...]

I think of how pleasant it was to see You 'live' as Man among men. And I think that I shall no longer see You so. Everything has been seen and said. I also know that You will not be cancelled out of my thought in Your actions of the Man amongst men, and that I shall need no books to remember You as You really were: it will be enough for me to look within myself, where all Your life is fixed with indelible letters. But it was sweet, sweet... Now You are going to ascend [...]

I am weeping... I have been Your disciple with the other women disciples along the roads of mountains and forests, along the barren dusty roads of the plains, on the lake and near the lovely river of Your Fatherland. You are now going away and only in my memory I shall see Bethlehem and Nazareth on their hills, green with olive-trees; and Jericho burning in the sun and with its rustling palm-trees; and friendly Bethany; and Engedi, a pearl lost in the deserts; and beautiful Samaria; and the fertile plains of Sharon and Esdraelon; and the strange tableland beyond the Jordan; and the nightmare of the Dead Sea; and the sunny towns on the Mediterranean coasts; and Jerusalem, the town of Your sorrow, its roads uphill and downhill, the archivolts, the squares, the suburbs, the wells and cisterns, the hills and even the sad valley of the lepers, where so much of Your mercy was effused... And the house of the Supper room... the little fountain weeping nearby... the little bridge on the Kidron, the place where You sweated blood..., the court-yard of the Praetorium... Ah, no! everything that is Your sorrow is here. It will remain forever... I shall have to look for all the souvenirs to find them, but Your prayer at Gethsemane, Your scourging, Your ascent to Golgotha, Your agony and death, and the sorrow of Your Mother, no, I shall not have to look for them: they are always present. I may forget them in Paradise... and it seems impossible to me that they can be forgotten even there... I remember everything of those dreadful hours. Even the shape of the stone on which You fell. Even the bud of a red rose that knocked against the stone that closed Your sepulchre, and looked like a drop of blood on the granite... My most divine Love, Your Passion lives in my mind.., and it breaks my heart...(The Poem, Vol. 5, pp. 866-7; The Gospel, Vol. 10, pp. 442-3).

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**The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group
Annual Gathering**

**Sunday, 14 October, 2018
9.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

Venue: St. Joseph's Catholic Church Hall
49 Stanhope Street, Malvern. Vic. 3144
(Off-street & street parking available)

Purpose:

- to gather like-minded people who would like to meet other MV readers,
- to read passages from Maria's writings
- to share personal impressions of Maria Valtorta's works with others
- to guide people into forming their own monthly/quarterly/bi-annual Maria Valtorta book club (or simply come to our yearly gathering)
- acknowledge Maria Valtorta's work in a relaxed, informal setting

Cost: FREE

Tea/Coffee will be available

BYO lunch or

Glenferrie Road shops - 100m up the road
(Nandos, Subway, coffee shops)

There is also a variety of restaurants if you plan to have an early dinner before returning home)

BYO Maria Valtorta book/booklet (with your choice of favourite passages to share)

Program outline:

- Sunday Mass with parishioners
- Listen to Maria Valtorta's equivalent to that Sunday's canonised Gospel reading
- How to organise an effective MV book club
- Two 'book club' sessions with two different groups
- Pray the Maria Valtorta scripture rosary

Books & Audio: There will be a full range of Maria Valtorta material, some pre-loved books, audios, and a few slightly damaged major works at a discounted price.

For setting up purposes, it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers so please email Catherine, catherine@valtorta.org.au or simply turn up on the day.

I hope to see you there for all or part of the day.

God bless

Catherine Loft

LETTERS

From Australia unless otherwise stated

I can't tell you how much I look forward to and appreciate the Bulletins and Supplements! Thank you for making this happen. I, too, find things in Maria's writings that bring light to issues from Scripture. There seems to be no end to what I can learn whenever I return to her writings (which, to me, are really God's Living Word).

Just wanted to say thanks so much for helping this soul feel connected to what has to be the best book club in the world!

God's blessings to you,

Pat Berrier, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA.

[Ed,] A reader from Queensland informed me that he has been inviting people in his Parish to read the writings of Maria Valtorta, and he has been distributing booklets at his own expense for many years. He has found it useful to include the two-page list of Approvals taken from the nine pages Stephen Austin has listed in his *Summa*. So I am attaching it again to save you having to explain or justify these works to others who may like to read them. Furthermore, it is better to invite people to read a booklet and then leave the choice to them, rather than risk losing one of your precious volumes. Thank you to this long-time reader for his thoughtful suggestion.

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 \$10.00 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.]