

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

PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

Jesus, King of Love, have mercy on us. Since we want to love You, help us to love You. Since we recognise that You are the true King, help us to know You better all the time. Since we believe that You can do everything, confirm our faith with your mercy.

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers* p. 22)

MARIA VALTORTA'S MISSION

Jesus says: 'Do you know what you are doing by writing? My Will. The will for the mission I want you to perform. Even if a single soul, one alone, were to find the way through this effort of yours willed by Me, the exertion, which to human sight seems inhuman, would be justified.'

(*Notebooks 1943*, p. 229)

EDITORIAL

Bulletin: The content presented in this edition continues to demonstrate the love, the countless hours and the effort of many Readers who are committed to promoting Valtorta in any way they can. Such a blessing on many levels. The image above relates to Fr. Zucchini's passage on the Perfume of Mary. **The Glossary** compiled by Dave Frantz proved to be a time-saving resource in this edition.

Supplement: It is no secret that we all love and thrive on the dialogue that takes place throughout the writings because it brings the narrative to life. However, Maria's credibility and authenticity is also validated through her detailed descriptions of people and places, which further highlight her acute observational ability and her poetic literacy skills. Stephen Austin refers to this in the **Summa**, while David Webster maps these very real places in his **Atlas**. And yet this was capped off by Giovanni Palladino's mention of Maria Valtorta's entries on Palestine in the recent newsletter from the Maria Valtorta Heritage Foundation. This like-mindedness from the four of us within days sealed the theme for this edition of The Supplement – **People & Places Through The Eyes of Maria Valtorta**.

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

THE POPES ON MARIA VALTORTA

The word '**IMPRIMATUR**' is the Latin for 'Let it be published'.

[1948] **Pope Pius XII:** Granted permission to 'publish the work as is'. This is an **unambiguous official Imprimatur** under the Code of Canon Law granted before witnesses by the Holy Father.

[1959] **Pope John XXIII:** The decree placing the Poem on the Index passes the desk of the pope. This action is more **ambiguous** for three reasons. 1- Pope John XXIII never read the Poem. He merely signed the decree that passed his desk by the Holy Office; a mere formality, devoid of weighed reflection (whereas Pope Pius XII spent a year reviewing the Poem). 2- The same Cardinal responsible for obtaining the signature of John XXIII, was also responsible for the condemnation of Saint Faustina's diary (also listed on the Index), and the ban on Padre Pio. 3- This action provoked an immediate response by his successor, Pope Paul VI.

[1966] **Pope Paul VI:** Just a few years after the Poem was placed on the Index, Pope Paul VI suppresses the Index, and abolishes Canon 1385 (This law required all private revelations to first have an Imprimatur before publishing. This was used to ban the Poem). Did Pope Paul VI abolish the Index because the Poem was on it? We cannot say for certain. Whatever the case may be, it was evident that the Index was an utter failure at this point, and thus needed to be suppressed.

[1974] **Pope Paul VI:** After reading the Poem and adding a copy to his seminary library in Milan, Pope Paul VI wrote a letter of appreciation to the author of a book about the Poem.

[1993] **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**(CDF) (Pope Benedict XVI 2005-2013): He 'reiterates' the Church's rejection of the claims made for the *Poem of the Man-God*. Cardinal Ratzinger did not personally examine or scrutinize the Work but 'reiterated' (he simply upheld) Cardinal Ottaviani's verdict in order to avoid undermining his predecessor.

[1994] **Pope John Paul II:** He Beatifies an outspoken supporter of Maria Valtorta, the Venerable Fr. Gabrielle Allegra.
(Research by David J. Webster)

http://www.maria-valtorta.net/poem_condemned.html

The Latin phrase '**NIHIL OBSTAT**' is used to indicate that a book contains nothing contrary to Catholic doctrines, faith or morals.

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(Jesus says:) 'What should I do to take care of the Work and make it triumph? Should I bring into action the tremendous God of Sinai, the God of the times of indignation and severity, and strike them dead in their sin? For many are the sins contained in their arrogance towards My Will? What else, if not this? Through you, I have provided *all the proofs*. [...] And what else do they want, if this does not suffice for them to say, '**Yes, it is the Spirit of God present here! There is no dogmatic error, there truly is none in the Work.**'

(1945-50 Notebooks, 16 August 1949, p.531)

REFLECTING WITH FR. ERNESTO ZUCCHINI

The Perfumes of Mary Most Holy

(Mary speaks:) 'This is to all those, including you, who do not know the reason why the perfume that comes to you, from Me or from my Son, is so changeable and complex. [...]. Remember that [...] during my life, I stayed [...] in the Temple, and then [...] I wandered throughout Palestine. They called me the "adorable Vase". But I am also the "Vase of all heavenly and earthly, spiritual and natural perfumes". In Me are the scents of the rose gardens, the lilies of the valleys, the dates, the terebinths (nut trees) of the valley where David, from whom I descended, struck down the giant, Goliath. [In Me are] the scents from the woods of Hermon (where pine, oak and polar trees are abundant), and the precious resins which give incense such as benzoin (similar to vanilla) and olibanum (frankincense) from other Palestinian woods. And there is the scent of the incense that was burned in the Temple at the morning and evening sacrifice, the scent of the balms that good souls poured on my Jesus, and those painful balms scattered on my dead Son. Everything is in Me, and everything is in Jesus. We are two vessels filled with chosen and sanctifying perfumes. And, whenever we want, we allow the scents to escape us and overflow to our beloved ones, which is filled with a complex mixture of aromas that are difficult to describe because at times, this or that scent dominates [...]. All are equally holy, elect sanctifiers. All are a witness to what God can and what I am able to do for my beloved ones. As in the Temple, [...] the environment of our chosen ones is purified to make them our servants more and more.'

(*Quadernetti, 8 September 1953, pp. 226-7*)

The awareness of spiritual perfumes that are sensitive to our sense of smell is highly varied, a topic of discussion and very profound. Many saints have experienced this: from St. Polycarp of Smyrna (70-155) to Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582); from Saint Joseph of Copertino (1603-1663) to Saint Rita of Cascia (1381-1457). There are many who have transmitted Heavenly messages through very intense perfumes. The best known throughout the world was Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. In him and through him, in very different places and times, these spiritual perfumes abounded. Some of his devotees have tried to give it a symbolic interpretation: the scent of carbolic acid represents the full victory over evil for those who have asked for the help from the holy friar. The scent of garlic indicates the need to follow the path that has been undertaken, without turning back, that is, a sign to persevere. With the scent of aniseed, Saint Pio would have indicated his moral support. The scent of coffee would have been an invitation to live in the present moment with tranquillity, removing daily anxieties and worries from one's heart. The list would be long and detailed; but in any case, Saint Pio still makes his devotees sense these perfumes today, and it would be in

this particular form of communication with which St. Pio would indicate his closeness, help and support to the person who perceives them.

Instead, in this dictation to Maria Valtorta on 8 September, 1953 (one of the last we have), Mary, Most Holy expresses a slightly different meaning. First of all, the [scents] indicate that those who experience them as coming from Mary Most Holy, are an heir to all the perfumes of Her life, which She spent throughout Palestine. But they also express Her sublime virtues, which transcend time and space. These are physically shown by the various and mysterious perfumes because in this way, they instantly reflect Her merits and virtues better, and that paradise has descended into you and through you. It shows and calls every man back to Heaven. Furthermore, these variegated and indefinable perfumes appear and disappear instantly, without any form of latency: it is a first - but not the only - distinction to be made in recognising their non-human origin. They also represent all the earthly perfumes present in Her and in Jesus. As Queen, she possesses them all, not only the Palestinian ones without distinction, but she uses them both together and individually for whomever She wants, particularly Her "beloved" ones, in order to communicate Her presence and the action these people must continue with or undertake. It is, therefore, a presence of Heaven beside them, to stimulate them to remain faithful to Jesus in spite of adversity. In fact, even the perfumes show that She is always present and an agent in the world to help men.

(Fr. Ernesto Zucchini – Maria Valtorta Onlus Foundation)

QUADERNETTI

THIS GENERATION WILL NOT PASS AWAY...

In this brief document, Christ gives His intended meaning of Matthew 24:34 (RSV) where He says: 'Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place.' and gently criticizes both the Apostles and disciples of then, as those of today, for having misinterpreted—typically as men—His intended meaning. (Jesus says:) 'I was not in error when I said: "This generation will not pass away before all this is accomplished" - (namely, the antichrist, signs in the heavens, signs of the times, the end of the world, the return of the Christ, and the final judgment) because I cannot err. But it was those who heard Me who erred (the Apostles and disciples) in interpreting My words. And by measuring and judging with human measures and judgment, they interpreted My words to mean that the generation of which I was speaking was the common human generation of a few years of life. Hence, they believed that within a few years of My Death and Resurrection, everything had to be accomplished. And so they taught, unintentionally creating for those who do not believe in Me, or who are no longer living members of the Mystical Body, an argument that demonstrates:

- 1- that the Gospel is the work of men;
- 2- that those men never received teaching from a Divine Master;
- 3- that the double infusion of the Holy Spirit is a lie;
- 4- (and the ultimate blasphemy) that the Christ Man-God did not exist, that the Word was not made flesh and never taught;
- 5- that it is all a fable, created by a group of men;
- 6- that the Church as founded by Christ is a lie, a coterie (a clique) and nothing more, a party, an association, but

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not the Church of Christ, not His Mystical Body, not the repository and Teacher of the truth;

7- that the primacy of Peter and the assistance of the Holy Spirit for the Vicar of Christ in matters of Faith and morals, does not exist;

8- that the sacraments are [only] figures (symbols), the Sacrifice of the Altar and every rite are simply choreography.

The Apostles were – men, as all the scholars are men who for 20 centuries read the Gospel without understanding certain key phrases. The Apostles were men. Men, even after a double infusion of the Holy Spirit, as they also are men who, even though having received the fullness of the Holy Spirit for their ministry as Shepherds, still do not understand the true meaning of My words. The creature is always imperfect. And even if surrounded and penetrated by the splendours of Sapiential light, the creature brings with it the clouds and heaviness of its nature: human and limited. [...] The Apostles embraced the letter of My phrase, but did not understand its spirit. Hence, they believed that I was speaking of the generation of their time and hence too, they judged my return would be quick. Is this an error of irreparable and damaging consequences? No. It rather served, and serves through the ages, and will serve until the end of time, to keep vigilant [...].

But listen. My phrase should be understood thus: "This generation (I was surrounded by the Apostles and disciples, that is, the believers in Me) will not pass away, this generation of My sons, of the sons of God - [...] will not pass away before the end of the world comes with all the foreshadowing and final signs." Because if it is true that at the end of time, there will be little faith, (since still few have known how to persevere to the end by resisting the doctrines of the false prophets, of the antichrists or -if you prefer- the sons of Satan), it is also true that faith in Me will not die, and there will be those who believe in Me on every continent. Therefore, "this generation", Mine, that of the "sons of God" will not have passed away, died, or be destroyed, before I return. Thus was My phrase to be interpreted in order to be understood in its truth. But be patient with him who understands it badly, even if he is an Apostle or a Scholar, bearing in mind that even the Apostle and Scholar is still and always a man.'

(Translated from *Quadernetti*, pp.147-9 by Br. Chrys
<http://www.bardstown.com/~brchrys/Matt24.html>)

NEWS - QUADERNETTI IN ENGLISH

The wait is over for the only collected writings of Valtorta to be translated into English. *I Quadernetti - The Little Notebooks* (290 pages, soft cover), is now available for purchase. This work is more in keeping with the three Notebooks as seen from the excerpts in the last two editions of the *Bulletin* and the *Supplement*.

If you live in Australia or New Zealand, our stock should arrive by late November.

For Readers overseas, visit the MV Foundation store in Italy <https://mariavaltortastore.com/en/books/the-little-notebooks/>

BROWSING THE SUMMA - DESCRIPTIONS

Vittorio Tredici, a highly experienced mineralogist, says: 'The author [Maria Valtorta] sees the forks in the roads, the milestones that point the way, and the various crops depending on the kind of soil. She sees the many Roman

bridges spanning several rivers or streams, as well as springs, running in certain seasons and dried up in others. She notes pronunciation differences between one region of Palestine and another. [Maria] describes whole paths and roads with such perfection as would perplex [or astound] those who have in fact had the opportunity of actually going there[...]. After reading the description given in the Work about one of Our Lord Jesus Christ's journeys over the Jordan, I recognized the path of Our Lord so perfectly [...]. The description made with such precision that only those who could actually see it, or have seen it, could possibly be able to describe it! And I continued to read that at a little distance across the summit, before resuming the gentle descent, there is a small spring where Our Lord Jesus Christ stopped with a caravan to eat a quick breakfast. Now I think that this spring is so small and inconspicuous that it would have been missed by anyone, even passing close by it, who had not been particularly attentive.'

Bishop Johanan-Mariam Cazenave says: '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 Aramean villages, 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.' *Summa & Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work* by Stephen Austin pp. 220-3, p. 226)

FROM THE MV HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Travelling across Palestine

Whoever reads *The Gospel As Revealed to Me* with attention and devotion, is lucky enough not only to travel to Palestine from the comfort of their sofa, but also visit 1st century Palestine, which is much more charming than the modern one.

Most of the 652 chapters of Maria Valtorta's Work begin with a detailed and often poetic description of the natural places which Maria Valtorta saw in her private revelations and which she described thanks to her gift as a naturally born writer [...]. Sometimes, it was Jesus Himself who described the natural beauty and the historical importance of the places that He visited with the Apostles. Therefore, for Maria Valtorta, this consisted of a "Dictation". One of the most interesting ones for its historical detail is the one described in Chapter 215 (**Poem Vol.2, p.409; Gospel Vol. 3, pp.423-4**). The "lesson" takes places on the heights of a mountain where the village of Bethgenna was situated. Jesus was really a knowledgeable and experienced guide for the Apostles! And ... also for Maria Valtorta, who could have never known so many historical and geographical details on her own in this [particular] dictation [where] Jesus reports the name of 12 towns which Maria Valtorta (and maybe also the Apostles) had never heard mentioned before. This is one of the proofs of the supernatural origin of Maria Valtorta's writings, as Blessed Gabriele M. Allegra acknowledged: *Digitus Dei est hic. (The Finger of God is Here.) Giovanni Palladino, Heritage Foundation Newsletter July/22*

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READER'S CHOICE

Like revelations made to other mystics, my choice is a passage explaining The Kingdom in the Our Father prayer to Maria Valtorta:

TIGY THOMAS, USA

(Jesus says:) ‘ “Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven”. Desire its coming with all your strength. If it came, it would be the joy of the earth. The Kingdom of God in hearts, in families, among citizens and nations. Suffer, work, sacrifice yourselves for this Kingdom. Let the earth be a mirror reflecting the life of Heaven in each individual. It will happen. All this will happen one day. Centuries of tears and blood, of errors, persecutions, of darkness relieved by flashes of light radiating from the mystical Light of My Church will precede the moment in which the earth will possess the Kingdom of God. Oh! My Church: although a boat, will never be sunk, as it is also a cliff unshakeable by breakers and will hold high the Light, My Light, the Light of God. And it will then be like the intense blazing of a star which, having reached the perfection of its existence, disintegrates, an immeasurable flower of the ethereal gardens, to breathe its existence and love at the feet of its Creator, in a rutilant (bright red) throb. But it will most certainly come.’

(Poem Vol. 2, p.328; Gospel Vol. 3, p.324)

READER'S CHOICE

My choice is this passage where Our Lord explained to the mystic and victim soul, Maria Valtorta, that He wants each day of the week dedicated to a specific intention, for which our sufferings, pains and prayers should be offered.

FRANK REGA, USA

(Jesus says:) ‘And let us look at the major groups for which suffering is needed. The ones for which I, too, suffered in the Passion: the Priesthood, the despairing, sinners, idolaters, and the souls waiting to return to God – that is, for you, the souls being purged; for Me, at that time, the just in Limbo.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the first three days of the week, should be dedicated to the Priesthood. In the Priesthood I include *all* the consecrated of every kind and category. The Priesthood is necessary for the *life of the spirit*, for the flock of the faithful. Priests provide the vital elements for souls, just like the four elements needed for life on earth – light, water, air and fire. But many of these consecrated clerics become weaker and weaker, like stems lacking the vital elements, and unwilling to absorb them to give them to the flock. So what mission do many actually perform? The one I entrusted to the Priesthood? No. The mission of their gain and of dispersing what I have gathered together. Oh, just a wisp keeps me from striking them [...]. It is painful for me, the eternal Pontiff, to see that *My* priestly army is full of sluggards and deserters. But the best ones, (the good clerics), were already on *My* cross and remained there willingly, for your sake as well [...]. These faithful servants of mine, I clasp to my heart because through them, the Light and the Word have been conserved on earth [...].

On **Wednesday**, we should pray and suffer for the despairing. They are brothers and sisters. No one should be so much of a brother or sister for you as someone who is poor, alone and sick. And those despairing are poor, with the greatest poverty. They have *lost everything* in losing hope in God. They are alone. There is no solitude more real than this [...]. They are sick. An illness which produces death. *Real* death. It is necessary to heal them, restore them to God, and make them rich with God.

On **Thursday**, we should offer our prayers and afflictions for the many idolaters. For Me, idolatry is the worship of anything which is not the true God. In addition to the savages, there are many of the civilized who, while knowing that there is one Triune God, worship a thousand idols ranging from themselves to the self of one of their peers. And along this way, they have many altars and false gods named “money”, “power”, “sensuality”, “rationalistic knowledge”, and so on [...]. I thus include [...] *all* those who must know the Most Holy Name of God and My own...and those who are “Christians” but not Catholics. The Church is one: the Church of Rome [...]. On a distant Thursday evening, with the wound of betrayal in My heart...I prayed for those who, through the heresy of a wretch, would separate from the living trunk of the Roman Church, that they might once again be one with it and thus with Me and with the Father. Finally, I prayed for all men because I was dying for them all [...]. Pray, then, for these, who are not in Me or who have gone out through the errors of their forebears, or through the error of their minds made proud by the semblance of knowledge they possess.

Let **Friday** be dedicated to the souls in Purgatory. Suffer and offer every Friday so that the angels of the Lord can say to many of these spirits, “Come and possess God.” I know [...] the rejoicing which carried off the just in a whirlwind of love when I appeared on a far-off Friday and said: “The wait is over. Come and possess God.” [...] To open the Kingdom for a soul and introduce it into blessedness is to give Me back what is mine.

On **Saturday**, pray and suffer with Mother Mary for the conversion of sinners. Let every Saturday of yours be a band of thorns surrounding your heart, so that it will be covered with roses to offer Mary [...].

Now for you, the week is over, without an hour of freedom to think of yourself. I'll take care of you. The Mother and I. And while you do what you can, with difficulty, in spite of your good will, the Mother and I act for your sake [...] for We love you and see that you love Us.’

(The Notebooks 1944, pp. 324-329)

MV ZOOM MEETINGS

The Maria Valtorta Zoom Bookclub meetings took place in four time zones. The number of attendees was under par to what we hoped for and expected, but it certainly didn't dampen the enthusiastic spirit of those who participated and who felt an immediate connection with kindred spirits. We hope to see more of you there in September._

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of
BRIAN PHILLIPS

Brother of Nance Lowery - avid Maria Valtorta Readers.

&

JOHN VAN DER STAAK

His love for Valtorta over the years was phenomenal.
He even wrote a 1,000-page dissertation on her Work.

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. Newsletters are sent every three months. [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.]