

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,

The Bulletin: I received a huge response about the three-year devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus mentioned in the Catherine's Classroom segment. How wonderful that so many more people have been introduced to this devotion. I mentioned that I was able to pray it for years thanks to the daily walks with my dog. I could never have completed it so easily without him. Jesse died last week. He was 19-years-old and I am so grateful I was able to use God's gift to me – one of his precious creatures to honour Him daily in return.

This quarter, two readers have been in contact, actively working towards safeguarding the accuracy of Maria's Works (see **Reader's Alert**). Included is also the prayer given to Maria by Jesus to be prayed for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. In 2016, a Maria Valtorta Conference commemorated 55 years since her death. In 2017, a meeting did not take place because it overlapped with the 100th anniversary of Fatima, a more important focus. However, I am happy to announce there will be a **Maria Valtorta Gathering - Sunday 14 October, 2018**. This will be free and it will take place in Melbourne. The purpose will be to bring like-minded people together, to give them the opportunity to talk about their MV experience, and to share favourite passages from any of the Works. More details of the venue and time in a later edition.

The Supplement: Another reader suggested that the theme of the Supplement should be Marriage and Family because of Satan's attack over many decades, but especially in these recent times on a political and social level. There is already a Supplement on Fatherhood (No. 79) and another on Motherhood (No.85) so this edition includes passages on the Sacrament of Marriage. With references from David Murray's, ***A Pilgrims Guide to the Poem of the Man-God (or) Where is it? A Guide to the Gospel as Revealed to Me and A Reader's Guide to MV's other writings*** (both are truly invaluable), I was absolutely swamped with the vast number of passages that were clear and, at times, challenging, but each was a lesson to be contemplated in itself. Here are only a few.

May God bless you and all your family this Christmas. Growing in faith,
Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Here is a prayer that Jesus gave to Maria Valtorta which could also be prayed on Christmas Day, which is when the greatest number of souls go to heaven.

Jesus says:

'The month devoted to the deceased is coming. Pray for them in the following way:

O Jesus, who with your glorious Resurrection have shown us what the "children of God" will be like eternally, grant a holy resurrection to our loved ones who have died in your Grace and to us, when our hour comes.

'For the sake of the Sacrifice of your Blood, the tears of Mary, and the merits of all the saints, open your Kingdom to their spirits.

O Mother, whose agony ended at dawn on Easter, before the Risen One, and whose waiting to re-join your Son ceased in the joy of your glorious Assumption, console our sorrow by freeing from affliction those whom we love even beyond death, and pray for us, who await the time when we shall recover the embrace of those we lost.

Martyrs and Saints who rejoice in Heaven, turn a gaze of entreaty towards God and a fraternal gaze towards the deceased who are expiating, to pray to the Eternal for them and say to them, "See: peace is opening out for you."

Beloved ones, who are dear to us, not lost, but separated, may your prayers be for us the kiss we miss, and when, through our suffrages, you are free in blessed Paradise with the saints, protect us by loving us in Perfection, united to us through the invisible, active, loving Communion of the Saints, a foretaste of that perfect reunion of the "blessed" which will be granted to us, in addition to the bliss of the vision of God, on regaining you just as we had you, but rendered sublime by the glory of Heaven.'

Maria says: 'On counting the days, I realize that today the Novena for the Deceased begins. Jesus dictated the prayer to me, then, so that I would say it in the Novena, as well as in November.' (*Notebooks 1944*, p.604; *Maria Valtorta Prayers*, pp. 39-40)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,
THE GOSPEL MEDITATED ROSARIES – A RE-CONSTRUCTION FOR THE WEBSITE COMING SOON

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The first component of this Readers' Group project, the (then existing) Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries, was completed in December 1999 on Audio Cassette tapes. On each of these tapes, passages describing the relevant five Mysteries – visions and dictations received by Maria Valtorta from Jesus and Mary themselves – are interspersed between the *Our Fathers* and the *Hail Maries* of the 5 decades. The audios of the new Luminous Mysteries promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2002 were added in 2003. An accompanying booklet contains the total transcripts and has wire binding for opening flat. (The Mysteries vary in length, according to what was revealed to Maria. As these Rosaries would take considerably longer to pray than the conventional Rosaries, one or two decades may be enough to pray at any one time.)

In 2003-4 the (then) four 90-minute Rosary Cassette tapes were converted to audio CDs. This required an editing of each Rosary – to fit into its 78-minute CD format. Some 20 minutes of the total Rosary transcripts were necessarily deleted, and in the process, a little surprise was discovered and rectified: one of the Sorrowful mysteries had eleven *Hail Maries*!

During 2017 I resurrected the recordings from the original audio tape set, to replace the CD transcripts in the website, adding the previously deleted 20 minutes to the content. Half of these missing 20 minutes were from the Sorrowful Mysteries – a significant restoration to their content. While still not sound-perfect, this involved two meticulous cleaning-up processes – for less distracting listening.

I hope these new recordings, which will be on the website soon, will now serve for a more extended test of time.

God Bless

David Murray david@valtorta.org.au

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

In my English class, I noticed over the last few years that the constant use of electronic devices at school has contributed significantly to young people reading less for pleasure or leisure. They prefer what the computer offers them rather than the written text. (Who wouldn't?) However, this has impacted their writing skills; namely their sentence structure, vocabulary and ability to spell without autocorrect. These weaknesses were reflected in their written tests and exams. So this fourth term, I decided that they were to bring a book of their choice to every class and, for 10 minutes at the start of each lesson, they would read. This was welcomed and had such a wonderfully calming effect on them too which was not disrupted by the dawdlers. The students would walk in quietly, read and they were being exposed to the written English language. When the time was up, all I had to say was 'Bookmark' and the lesson continued calmly.

I wanted to extend this love of reading good books to my Religion classes. We usually started with a prayer, or I would play them a video from Saints & Angels- Catholic Online or we would listen and reflect on the words of the bible or a spiritual song, but that would only last a few minutes...and they were still not reading any material consistently which would benefit them spiritually. I really wanted to show them that there are spiritual books available for them to read. So I looked through the wonderful thematic booklets that David Murray compiled

and, with the advent of Christmas, I felt *The Nativity, the Shepherds and the Three Wise Men* would be a good choice for this experimental class. They already knew the story of Christmas because even those families that did not always attend Sunday Mass or a Christian service, went to a church on Christmas Day. So I gave them each a copy and for 10 minutes each lesson, they would read about the shepherds who were no longer just a group of males of an unknown name and age with no real identity. These shepherds came to life. The class also came to understand the Wise Men better too. They were really glued but at the end of the 10 minutes, I said, 'Bookmark' and we continued with the lesson. Unlike my other classes where I would first read the bible passage and then show them the life of Jesus through the writings of Maria Valtorta, in this instance, we did the reverse – the Maria Valtorta booklet was read first, then on Christmas Day, they could listen to the bible reading at Mass. Who knows? Maybe this year, the students will feel what we readers feel whenever we listen to the Sunday gospel – there is that extra detail Jesus gave us through Maria. I wonder. I looked to find other Valtorta booklets suitable for 14-17-year-old males appropriate to where they were at spiritually. I only found two more but these were enough. After all, my aim is to use Valtorta as a stepping stone to get them to read the many other wonderful spiritual books. This idea came late as our academic year is nearly over but the idea was effective. There are many other titles that they can read in class such as those lovely Tan Booklets on the various Saints, the Holy Spirit, the value of the Mass, Apparitions, the Holy Shroud, or Angel stories. I only need to have one each of these precious books to build a class set of 30 different titles through which the students can grow throughout the year. They must be booklets rather than books at this stage. My mission these holidays is to start my class collection.

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

READER'S CHOICE

Dear Readers,

I have chosen a passage which talks about the value of purity especially because of the times we are living in now. How far away from the revealed truth, even in the natural order and reason of things, we have drifted away in a downward spiral.

We are at a point in the world where it would seem impossible to even speak to most people about the possibility of being able to live a life of purity and chastity as it seems so foreign to the modern world.

I believe that in purity, we possess God and therefore Love, which leads to real happiness that nothing else can give.

Johnny Cantarella, Queensland

Jesus says:

'Today write only this. Purity has such a value, that the womb of a creature can contain the Uncontainable One, because She possessed the greatest purity that a creature of God could have. The Most Holy Trinity descended with Its perfections, inhabited with Its Three Persons, enclosed Its infinity in a small space. But It did not debase Itself by doing so, because the love of the Virgin and the will of God widened this space until they rendered it a Heaven. And the Most Holy Trinity made Itself known by Its characteristics:

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The Father, being once again the Creator of the creature, as on the sixth day of Creation, had a real, worthy daughter fashioned to His perfect image. The mark of God was impressed so completely and exactly on Mary, that only in the First-Born was it greater. Mary can be called the Second-born of the Father because, owing to the perfection granted to Her and preserved by Her, and to Her dignity of Spouse and Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, She comes second after the Son of the Father and second in His eternal thought, which ab aeterno took delight in Her.

The Son, being also "Her Son", did teach Her, by the mystery of Grace, His truth and wisdom, when He was but an Embryo, growing in Her womb.

The Holy Spirit appeared amongst men, for an anticipated prolonged Pentecost: Love for "Her Whom He loved", Consolation to men because of the Fruit of Her Womb, Sanctification on account of the Maternity of the Holy One. God, to reveal Himself to men in the new and complete form, which starts the Redemption era, did not select for His throne a star in the sky, nor the palace of a powerful man. Neither did He want the wings of angels as the base of His feet. He wanted a spotless womb.' (*The Poem*, Vol. 1, p.7; *The Gospel*, Vol. 1, pp. 13-14)

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

There are two new pages on the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website. Check them out! Both are described below.

Jesus Speaks of the Theory of Evolution to Maria Valtorta

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

The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group collaborated with Éditions Maria Valtorta to provide English captions to their popular video: Jesus Speaks of the Theory of Evolution (Maria Valtorta). Watch the video at the above link.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Read Maria Valtorta and Recommended Her Writings!

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/mother-teresa-of-calcutta-valtorta.html>

Mother Teresa of Calcutta is world-famous for founding the Missionaries of Charity, consisting of over 4,500 religious sisters serving the poorest of the poor in 133 countries. She was the recipient of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, beatified in 2003, and canonized in 2016. She was an inspiration and role model to thousands of people around the world. What is interesting for us is that one of the books most dearest to her and that she often carried with her in her travels was none other than Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God*. Fr. Leo Maasburg, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Austria, was a close associate of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He accompanied her on many of her journeys, was present at the occasion of the opening of new Missionaries of Charity houses on multiple continents, and preached retreats for her sisters all over the world. When Mother Teresa opened her first houses in Moscow and Armenia in 1988, Fr. Maasburg was their spiritual counselor for several months and through these means was the first official Catholic priest allowed back into the

Soviet Union. He published a book about Mother Teresa in October 2011 that relates 50 eyewitness stories about her life and accomplishments.

What is significant for us is that in 2009, he was interviewed by *Christian Magazine* and reported that Mother Teresa frequently carried *The Poem of the Man-God* with her in her travels and that she told him multiple times to read it. This was further confirmed in a 2017 JCL thesis published for the Faculty of Canon Law of St. Paul University which includes a signed testimonial letter of Fr. Leo Maasburg where he testifies 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. The above link includes the photocopy of his signed testimony. Considering that Mother Teresa's charity towards the poor and selflessness (which served to unite her to Christ in a special way) was quite extraordinary, her special devotion to reading Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God* is a tremendous testimony.

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

READERS' ALERT

Dear MV Readers,

First and foremost, we must be grateful to those who translated the works from Italian into many other languages because without them, we would not be as enriched as we are. However, on a couple of instances, the odd word used is not as accurate as it should be at the risk of the wrong people trying to invalidate Maria's works. Here are two concerns that two of our very readers have drawn to our attention.

I was informed there was an error in the passage presented in the Reader's Choice (Bulletin No. 87). The reader said the error was that Jesus says 'From the Last Supper onwards, I had no **refreshment**.' (cf. Poem, Vol. 5 p.669 Ch. 609) And yet in Vol. 5, Ch. 604, Longinus offers Jesus a drink and Jesus takes it. The error is in the translation. I looked up the Italian and Jesus says: 'From the Last Supper onwards, I had no **comfort**.' This rectifies the content enormously!

Secondly, another reader pointed out that in the *Lessons on the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans*, the Holy Spirit was referred to a couple of times as **She**. In Italian, all nouns and pronouns are masculine or feminine. There is no 'it' equivalent. The Holy Spirit in Italian is LO SPIRITO SANTO (masculine) so there was no problem in translation when substituting this noun for the pronoun **He** to avoid repetitious language in a short sentence. However, the Holy Spirit is also referred to as the third person (of the Trinity) and in Italian, this is LA TERZA PERSONA (feminine) which the translator referred to as **She** when substituting the noun for a pronoun. So I can see how it happened. However, the most important thing to remember is that the Holy Spirit is the **Spouse** of the Blessed Virgin Mary and, therefore, should be referred to in masculine terms regardless of the choice of phrase used in Italian. Otherwise, one should translate exactly each time. If referring to just the spirit, LO SPIRITO, then there are more options that could be used. However, the Holy Spirit needs to be masculine.

I have contacted the people at the CEV Fondazione Maria Valtorta in Italy who are also grateful and open to following up on queries/ information sent, in order to make

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corrections in future reprints. So thank you to those readers for alerting us to the situation.

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

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 subscription renewals for hardcopy bulletins (in Australia only) should be made payable to **Catherine Loft**.

1. Where is it? A Guide to The Gospel As Revealed to Me. WB 185p \$20.00

2. A Pilgrim's Guide to The Poem of the Man-God. WB 185p \$10.00

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

4. The Nativity, The Shepherds and the three Wise Men. 36p. \$4.00

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

6. Gospel-meditated Rosary full transcripts. WB 75p \$10.

LETTERS

(From Australia unless otherwise stated)

I would like to thank you for the latest Catherine's Classroom. What an amazing teaching you have given us! The way you taught the students and the practical advice given is something that can be taken on board by most of us. It is one thing to read something and be excited about it, but to have such a simple application along with it is gold.

Many years ago around the early 1990's I came across the *Poem of the Man-God*. A friend of mine who had been to Medjugorje had bought the set of five because Our Lady of Medjugorje said to read them. She never read them but I was intrigued by her story and bought Book One for myself.

This was the start of my journey with Maria Valtorta. I couldn't put the book down...I just had to keep reading and reading ...it made such sense to me and filled in all the little details that I wanted to know about the hidden life of Jesus and Mary.

As the mother of eight children, the youngest around 6 or 7, my life was very full and reading all the time was not the most ideal way to keep up with the demands of very busy household. I was so on fire with *the Poem* that my enthusiasm spilled over and sparked the interest of a friend of mine, Susie. Problem solved. Susie was retired and had plenty of time for reading, so she took the book through the week and I would enjoy and savour it at the weekends when there was time for relaxation.

We read all the Volumes this way. The only Volume I didn't buy, sadly, was Volume four. I borrowed that one and to this day, I do not have it. I have never completely read Volume Five although Susie did. The plan was to read the Passion, Death and Resurrection over the Easter season but I found I couldn't manage it as there was so much to read each day to keep up, so I became discouraged.

The small booklets David Murray put together have been very useful to give away to friends, and the books on the Rosary are wonderful to use as well, particularly in the 100th Anniversary Year of Our lady's Apparitions at Fatima.

After a break from reading *the Poem*, I am now back on track again and getting so much more from them than I did the first time. Instead of reading and reading as I did the first time, I now set time aside each day and just take a section to read and reflect on. My reflecting isn't perfect but it's a start! I have two Volume ones and they are always out on loan.

Catherine, David and Gwen (our NZ agent), thank you for keeping our enthusiasm going and continuing to feed us through the Readers' Group. God's blessings on you all!

Maureen Barber, New Zealand.

[Ed: Maureen now has a copy of Volume Four]

I am originally from California, but have lived in Norway all of my adult life. I was an AFS exchange student here, fell in love with a Norwegian, and the rest is history. Like you, I am a teacher (I teach high school - English, psychology and religion and ethics), and I get a lot of inspiration from your anecdotes from the classroom. I see myself as an undercover missionary, although four years ago I started teaching at the one and only Catholic high school in Norway (one of two in all of Scandinavia), so I am no longer undercover. It is a joy bringing my faith with me into the classroom, and for the most part, it's pretty well-received, even though the majority of our students aren't Catholic or people of faith.

I started reading Valtorta in 2006, nudged by one of my sisters who ordered all five volumes after reading William F. Buckley's spiritual autobiography. I am so thankful she nudged me. I wrote to David Murray several years ago about the odd resistance I experienced and often encounter regarding Valtorta's works. David published my observations in one of the newsletters, probably around 2008 or so. I am thankful I pushed through that resistance. Valtorta's writings are nothing less than life-changing.

Theresa Robberstad, Norway

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.]