

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 94 JUNE 2019

'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

O most holy King, adorable Heart, O my Master and Lord. I beg you to be the King of this house which is mine. May your Heart which is full of mercy, spread its blessings upon it and those dwelling in it. May Your Knowledge instruct all hearts living in it, in the Science of Good, of your Good. May your Power be the only ruler; so that no thought, no action or human desire will ever come to replace those which have been decided by your Will. Beginning now, and for all of the years to come, we want only You to give orders, direction and advice here. We abandon ourselves to You, body and soul. We are yours, always yours, for the earth and on the earth, for heaven and in heaven. (*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p. 37)

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

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

Bulletin: The words from Jesus about Maria's mission continues to move me because it also reflects the intention and purpose of this apostolate, in union with all the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group worldwide, and that is to invite people to read these Works for reasons that only a Reader would fully understand. However, my communication with people indicates that so many have tried to invite that '*single soul, one alone*' to feel enriched by these Works and bring them closer to God. At times Readers have succeeded, failed, or God wills it that the effect remain unknown to them. At the 2018 Gathering, it was suggested that in 2019, people

invite a friend or a family member. So please check this bulletin for the date of the **2019 Maria Valtorta Readers' Group Gathering – Plus One**. Furthermore, there is some exciting news in **Stephen's Update** column. We pray that this book *Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ* by Fr. Anthony Pillari and Stephen Austin will promulgate Maria's Works further and persuade more people to read them.

Please help revive our **Letters Column**. It's dying. **Supplement:** June is the month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with the feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost, the Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi so the theme this quarter is *I am the Way, the Truth & the Life*.

Growing in faith

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

The Poem...and The Gospel...

Why Maria Valtorta?

There were six other books of Maria Valtorta's writings besides *The Poem of the Man-God* and *The Gospel as Revealed to Me*. They were her *Autobiography*, her 1943, 1944 and 1945-50 *Notebooks*, the *Book of Azariah*, and the Holy Spirit's *Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*. (Like the guides to *The Poem...* and *The Gospel...*) a 137-page guide to these books was produced and published by the Reader's Group, entitled *A Reader's Guide to Maria Valtorta's Other Writings*. The article for this column of the Bulletin contains extracts from two of these "other" books, describing why, how and when Maria was given the extraordinary privilege of witnessing the lives of Jesus and Mary which she described in *The Poem...* and *The Gospel...*

(Among some Valtorta readers I know here in Melbourne, some of us agree that the 1943 *Notebooks* is our favourite Valtorta book. And of all the lessons I've learnt in my twenty plus years of

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reading Maria's writings, the "not judging" lesson is the most important.)

Replacing Another, and Being Given Her Mission

(On June 28, 1943, Jesus dictates to Maria:)

'...Among sinners and converts, I sometimes see souls that are so beautiful and so grateful that I chose them to be my spouses, in place of others previously called, who have rejected Me. You, Maria, a poor thing... approached My dwelling... and I received you, situating you in the place of another who, called by Me, rejected grace. On seeing you grateful and willing, I chose you as My bride...'

(Notebooks 1943, p. 119)

(On December 27, 1943, Jesus says to Maria:)

'O beloved daughter, feed on this holy Word... Since you are destined to repeat teachings of the Word... My old and new Gospel shall be most sweet honey for your spirit.'

(Notebooks 1943, p. 609)

(Maria's first writings of The Poem... and The Gospel... were given to her on December 18, 1943 and January 5, 1944. She had completed her nine-month preparation.)

(On November 25, 1944, Jesus speaks to Maria about her mission :)

'...I have formed you for this... I have also suppressed your physical needs for nourishment, sleep, and rest... In a body which is tormented and worn down (by five serious major and ten minor illnesses)... you are able to do what someone healthy and well-nourished could not do...'

(Notebooks 1944, p. 623)

'Not Judging' – Maria's Critical Test

(On May 13, 1943, early after she received the first dictations which became her 1943 Notebooks, Maria writes:)

'...Two years ago for the first time I perceived a soundless "voice"... It followed upon an argument with my cousin (the spiritist). I had replied with a derisory, *stinging* letter.

Three hours later, while I was ruminating over the text already dispatched... I perceived the "voice": 'Do not judge... I alone am Judge and Saviour'... and I saw a large door opening... There filtered through a light so intense, so radiant... I understood in that Light that *we must love everyone, not judge anyone, forgive everything, and live through God alone...* I still see that brilliance...'

(Notebooks 1943, pp.28-9)

(On October 20, 1944, answering a question Maria asked Jesus about the reason for this 1941 experience, He said:)

'If I had not halted you with my "Do not judge"... you would have broken with your violence what I had knotted together: a silk thread destined to become a ship's hawser, with the cables of superhuman charity and human affection.'

(Notebooks 1944, p. 599)

God bless,

David Murray david@valtorta.org.au

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

The R.E. class was working on a unit on Courage and we examined the courage shown by people in the Old Testament such as young David (& Goliath), Joshua and Caleb (Moses' spies) and Esther. Looking at the New Testament, we examined John the Baptist, Jesus and St. Paul. I informed the class that on the Church Calendar, the only other person's birthday given a feast day, apart from Jesus' and Mary's, is the Nativity of St. John the Baptist which was coming up on 24 June. We had learnt about the mission of Jesus and John the Baptist so I thought I would share with them a passage from Maria Valtorta showing the human affection and interaction between Jesus and his cousin.

Jesus visits his cousin John the Baptist.

It is a clear moonlight night, so clear that the ground appears in all its details [...] Jesus is walking steadfast and alone. He proceeds very fast along His way [...] and arrives at a natural cave on the side of the hill. He goes in and bends over a body that is lying on the ground [...]. He calls him: 'John.'

The man awakes and sits up, still drowsy. But he soon realises who is calling him and jumps to his feet, then prostrates himself saying: 'How is it that my Lord came to me?'

'To make your heart and Mine happy. You wanted Me, John. Here I am. Get up. Let us go out into the moonlight and sit and talk on the rock near the grotto.'

John obeys, gets up and goes out. But when Jesus sits down, he kneels down in front of Christ. He is wearing a sheepskin, which hardly covers his very lean body, and he pushes back his long dishevelled hair, which had fallen over his eyes, to see the Son of God better. The contrast between them is very strong. Jesus is pale and fair-haired, His hair is soft and tidy and His beard is trimmed round the lower part of His face. John is like a bush of very dark hairs, in which two deep-set eyes can be seen: two feverish eyes, I would say, as they shine so much in their jet black setting.

'I have come to thank you. You have fulfilled and are fulfilling, with the perfection of Grace within you, your mission as My Precursor. When the hour comes, you will enter Heaven beside Me, because you will have deserved everything from God. And in the expectation, you will already be in the peace of the Lord, My beloved friend.'

'I will enter peace very soon. My Master and God, bless Your servant to strengthen him for his last trial. I am aware it is now near and that there is still one witness I have to bear: the witness of my blood. And You are aware more than I am, that my hour is about to arrive. The merciful bounty of Your Divine Heart

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has brought You here, to fortify the last martyr of Israel and the first of the new era. Tell me only one thing: will I have to wait long for Your coming?’

‘No, John. Not much longer than the time that elapsed between your birth and Mine.’

‘May the Most High be blessed for that, Jesus... may I call You so?’

‘You can, because of our blood and your holiness. The Name, which also sinners pronounce, can be pronounced by the holy one in Israel. It is salvation for them, let it be kindness to you. What do you want from Jesus, your Master and cousin?’

‘I am about to die. As a father is anxious for his children, so I am anxious for my disciples. My disciples... You are a Master and You know how fondly we love them. My only fear in dying is that they may get lost like sheep without a shepherd. Will You please gather them? [...]’

‘Do not worry, John. They shall not perish. [...]’
John prostrates himself to the ground, and what seems impossible in such an austere personage, he bursts into tears sobbing out of spiritual joy. Jesus lays a hand on his head: ‘Your joyful and humble tears are in unison with a song of long ago at the sound of which your little heart leapt out of joy. The song and your tears are the same hymn of praise to the Eternal Father, who "has done great things, He that is Mighty, to humble souls". [...] You deserve all respect and comfort. Here it is only the hand of the Son of man, which is laid on your head, but Light and Love are descending from the open Heavens to bless you, John.’

‘I do not deserve so much. I am Your servant.’

‘You are My John. That day at the Jordan, I was the Messiah who was being revealed; here, now, it is your cousin and God who wish to give you the viaticum of His love as God and as a relative. Get up, John. Let us kiss each other goodbye.’

‘I do not deserve so much. I have longed so much for it, all my life. But I dare not do that to You. You are my God.’

‘I am your Jesus. Goodbye. My soul will be near yours until peace comes. Live and die in peace for the sake of your disciples. That is all I can give you for the time being. But in Heaven I will give you one hundredfold, because you have found grace in the eyes of God.’

Jesus has lifted him and embraced him, kissing him on his cheeks and being kissed by him. Then John kneels once again and Jesus lays both hands on his head and prays with His eyes turned to Heaven. He seems to be consecrating him. He is impressive. They are silent for some time. Then Jesus takes His leave with His kind salutation: ‘May peace be always with you’ and He resumes the same road as before.

(Poem. Vol. 2, pp.29-33; Gospel. Vol. 2, 462-7)

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

I have very exciting news! Fr. Pillari and I have published our long-anticipated book entitled:

"Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ: Treasured by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed María Inés Teresa Arias, and Blessed Gabriel Allegra"

Book Description: Mother Teresa of Calcutta (canonized saint and Nobel Prize winner) carried with her in her travels a mystical writer's world-renowned work, a work treasured by dozens of other famous people and scholars, numerous saints, and tens of thousands of ordinary people like you and I: a truly life-changing hidden gem you can't afford to miss out on.

Considered by noteworthy scholars, experts, and renowned theologians to be one of the greatest and most prolific mystics of all time, Maria Valtorta's reported visions of the Gospel are further substantiated by the testimonies of three saints. The ground-breaking analysis by Fr. Anthony Pillari, J.C.L., and I, Stephen Austin, makes accessible to all this hidden treasure, the testimonies of these saints, and addresses the most common objection to Valtorta's work: the first edition of her work was once placed on the Catholic Church's Index of Forbidden Books (prior to it being later permitted). Many read and hear conflicting information and are still confused about the canonical status of Valtorta's work, asking themselves if it is to be considered condemned or not, our book 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. This book also details the admiration that three canonized/beatified persons who have publicly expressed concerning Valtorta's work and that their beatification invites Catholics to respect and share their opinion concerning Valtorta's work.

Endorsements: Our book has received excellent endorsements by John-Henry Westen (Editor in Chief and Co-Founder of LifeSiteNews), Dr. Mark Miravalle (Chair of Mariology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville), and Cardinal Thomas Williams (Archbishop Emeritus of Wellington, New Zealand). Along with this bulletin, we include a PDF showcasing these endorsements so you can read what they had to say. Of special significance in this book 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. Fr. Maasburg's testimonial relates that Mother Teresa carried Maria Valtorta's work with her in her travels, read this work, and recommended him to also read it. Fr. Maasburg wrote the preface for our book.

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Cardinal Thomas Williams, Archbishop Emeritus of Wellington, New Zealand wrote:

"When in the 1980's I commenced reading *The Poem of the Man-God*, I was cautioned by overscrupulous well-wishers concerned for my spiritual welfare against reading a book which had been placed on the Index of Forbidden books. Father Anthony Pillari in *Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ* has banished for good and all any lingering doubts as to the orthodoxy of her visions and writings."

Professor Mark Miravalle stated, "Fr. Pillari and Stephen Austin's text on *The Poem of the Man-God* makes clear the canonical legitimacy for all faithful Catholics to read and appreciate this great mystical work. The positive spiritual discernment of St. Teresa of Calcutta and other recently declared 'Blesseds' of the Church testify to its inspiring and authentic contents."

Where to Order: Please order your book copy here on Amazon.com:

<https://www.amazon.com/Maria-Valtortas-Life-Christ-Treasured/dp/0986115126/>

You can also find this book by searching on Amazon for "Stephen Austin Valtorta". This book is available in both paperback and Kindle formats.

We Need Reviews: Fr. Pillari and I need more customer reviews on Amazon.com on our book page. Please leave a review for our book. To leave a review, load the website page for our book (given above), click "Write a customer review", and then submit it. Let us know if you need help and we can assist you with this process.

Flyer: Along with this bulletin, we include a PDF flyer that you can share with others.

I hope you enjoy this new book! It is also a great gift idea for those with whom you want to share Valtorta! God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP GATHERING 2019

This annual gathering will take place on Sunday 13th October (weekend of the anniversary of Maria Valtorta's death) at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 49 Stanhope Street Malvern, 3144. More details will be given in the September Bulletin.

LETTERS

I have just looked through the site and find that it is so beautiful. Maria Valtorta had been given so much and I accept that the average spirit of a person would let the individual know that it was the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the Truth. When I went to Israel many years ago, her descriptions would just unwind

in my head (heart?) as I was wandering around those parts of the country around the Lake of Galilee where Jesus did so much good work. Many thanks and blessings,
Ian Robinson, NSW, Australia

I have read all of Maria Valtorta's writings and found no conflict with Christian teachings...And as affirmation that the source is divine, they all give glory to God. These writings have helped me more than any other material I've ever read. The writings go into more depth, help with a deeper connection to God, know Him more, by giving detailed descriptions. Now that I have read everything, I find that she has captured my impressions of God more completely, extensively than any other writings and going beyond. Yes, the Gospels demonstrate the degree of God's love telling how Jesus died for us, the greatest of all statements that could ever be made. But it helps to read Valtorta telling of the intensity of God, e.g. "We can only know God's love in Heaven: on earth it would crush us." Or, the only reason people could approach Jesus was because He was clothed in flesh: (the intensity of love from Him and to Him is like fire) otherwise they would have been incinerated.

Brent Parisen, North Carolina, USA

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

Ned Pattle

A long-time Maria Valtorta Readers' Group member
May he rest in peace.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - HARDCOPY

Payment options for those whose subscriptions are due (see below), are by cheque payable to C. Loft, or Direct Bank Deposit (CBA C. Loft BSB 063353 A/N 10171176 or you are welcome to pay your \$10.00 annual fee in postage stamps if that is more convenient.

- **Subscription for 2019 is due if ticked.)**

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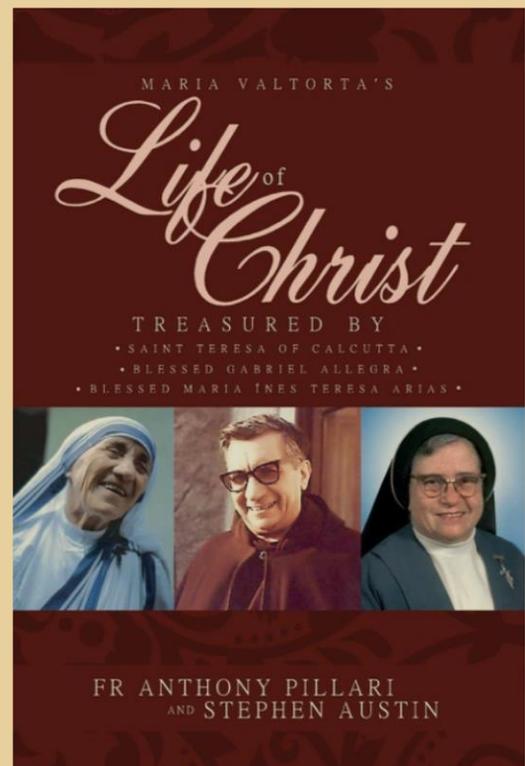
This group is an online non-profit organisation, which retails publications of Maria Valtorta's writings and offers other supporting materials to its members and to other interested persons. Bulletins are sent every 3 months. A subscription of \$10.00 per year is requested (no charge for priests and religious). E-mail copies of the bulletins, supplements and catalogue are free and are also available online at our website.[The 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.]

Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ: Treasured by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed María Inés Teresa Arias, and Blessed Gabriel Allegra

Mother Teresa of Calcutta (canonized saint and Nobel Prize winner) carried with her in her travels a mystical writer's world-renowned work, a work treasured by dozens of other famous people and scholars, numerous saints, and tens of thousands of ordinary people like you and I: a truly life-changing hidden gem you can't afford to miss out on.

Considered by noteworthy scholars, experts, and renowned theologians to be one of the **greatest and most prolific** mystics of all time, Maria Valtorta's reported visions of the Gospel are further substantiated by the testimonies of three saints. The groundbreaking analysis by Fr. Anthony Pillari, J.C.L., and Stephen Austin makes accessible to all this hidden treasure, the testimonies of these saints, and addresses the most common objection to Valtorta's work: the first edition of her work was once placed on the Catholic Church's Index of Forbidden Books (prior to it being later permitted). Many read and hear conflicting information and are still confused about the canonical status of Valtorta's work, asking themselves if it is to be considered condemned or not. Fr. Pillari and Stephen's book 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. This book also details the admiration that three canonized/beatified persons who have publicly expressed concerning Valtorta's work and that their beatification invites Catholics to respect and share their opinion concerning Valtorta's work.

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Endorsements

“When in the 1980’s I commenced reading *The Poem of the Man-God*, I was cautioned by overscrupulous well-wishers concerned for my spiritual welfare against reading a book which had been placed on the Index of Forbidden books. Father Anthony Pillari in *Maria Valtorta’s Life of Christ* has banished for good and all any lingering doubts as to the orthodoxy of her visions and writings.”
— Cardinal Thomas Williams, Archbishop Emeritus of Wellington, New Zealand

“Fr. Anthony Pillari and Stephen Austin deserve to be commended for this precious work which will, God willing, open up for the Church the great treasure that is *The Poem of the Man-God*. Valtorta’s great work, like St. Louis de Montfort’s priceless *True Devotion to Mary*, has been a hidden treasure at times despised and rejected even by those in the Church. With the witness of these saints who have profited from Valtorta’s incredible insights into the life of Christ, may the whole Church awaken to the riches of an intimate knowledge of the life and times of Our Lord.”
— John-Henry Westen, Editor in Chief and Co-Founder of LifeSiteNews

Fr. Pillari and Stephen Austin’s text on *The Poem of the Man-God* makes clear the canonical legitimacy for all faithful Catholics to read and appreciate this great mystical work. The positive spiritual discernment of St. Teresa of Calcutta and other recently declared “Blesseds” of the Church testify to its inspiring and authentic contents. The sublime Mariological theme of Mary as the “Co-redemptrix” with and under Jesus, the divine Redeemer, accurately embodies the best and richest Mariology of the last millennium. Rather than a threat to Scripture reading, *The Poem* makes the superior Word of God come alive and move souls to repentance, conversion, and peace. The time has come for the *Poem of the Man-God* to be universally appreciated as the contemporary mystical classic that it is. Thank you, Fr. Pillari and Stephen Austin for this outstanding articulation and defense of the pearls of *The Poem* for today.
— Dr. Mark Miravalle St. John Paul II Chair of Mariology Franciscan University of Steubenville President, *International Marian Association*.

Preface

Father Anthony Pillari’s thesis and now his publishing, with Stephen Austin, of this new book *Maria Valtorta’s Life of Christ* fills me with great joy. I am grateful not only for the high quality of this academic work with its profound level of research but also for how it contributes to a deeper understanding of God’s gifts in troubled times like ours.

In early spring 1972, when I had just announced that I was going to the United Kingdom for further studies, an aunt of mine told me she wanted to give me a gift for my time abroad. I immediately hoped for some financial support and was quite disappointed when she instead handed me a box with ten books: the ten volumes of Maria Valtorta’s *Poem*. As it turned out, these books were much more precious than money because they changed my life and laid the foundation for my vocation to the priesthood.

The prayerful daily reading of Maria Valtorta’s great work was a catechetical formation for a young man like me who was advancing in academic studies but who was ignorant in matters pertaining to his faith. The daily reading of the Bible and the daily prayerful reading of *The Poem* turned out to be a “student’s retreat” and a great gift from God. May these gifts multiply a hundredfold.

With my best wishes and God’s blessing,
Msgr. Leo-M. Maasburg 1,

1 Note: 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 and her life and accomplishments.