

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 95 SEPTEMBER 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

Peace, O holy Virgin! Through your glorious Assumption, give us peace, O Mary! So that those who already accept and love You, not as You deserve, but as they can, come to accept and love You twofold. So that those who don't know You as You really are come to believe in You. And those who don't know, or don't want to know who You are, come to accept You. (*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p. 27)

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: Refer to details regarding the **2019 Maria Valtorta Readers' Group Gathering – Plus One.**

We also have contributions from Readers for our **Letters Column** in this edition and I am sure you will find them of particular interest including book reviews on *Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ* by Fr. Anthony Pillari and Stephen Austin in **Stephen's Update.**

Supplement: The months of August, September and October are dedicated to Our Lady in some way so I wanted to pay tribute to the Feast of the Assumption that was declared a doctrine by Pope St. Pius XII in 1950. The passages selected reflect the perspective of Mary, Jesus, the apostle St. John, and God, in addition to the debunking of a couple of legends.

Growing in Faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

Of all the passages in Maria's writings – which I have read and re-read many times over the past 27 years

– the most important lessons for my whole life have been on the message: 'Do Not Judge'. In my years with this ministry, I produced a number of little booklets on various themes. One the earliest of these was on the theme: 'Forgiving and Being Forgiven'.

Searching through the Bulletins' Index and through my quarterly 'Journey' contributions, I couldn't find the story of an event experienced many years ago during my compilation of passages to be included in the booklet, *Forgiving and Being Forgiven*.

I had just printed the selection of pages chosen for this booklet when I noticed that there were 37 pages, and that the passages at the very end – on page 37 - were on 'Not Judging' from the above-mentioned *1943 and 1944 Notebooks*. Thinking that these passages didn't really relate to the 'Forgiving' theme, I deleted that page. And now the booklet was (I thought) ready for production.

Just after I pressed the 'print' button, I noticed a little spider that had come down from the ceiling on a long thread, stopping less than a foot from my eyes. I thought that this was strange.

Waking up on the morning of two days later, seemingly out of nowhere, the following words came to my mind: silk thread. Where did those words come from? I went to the computer and re-established where they were: **in the passage on 'not judging' that I had deleted!** So I decided that this passage should remain, and I re-inserted it – for inclusion on the inside of the new booklet's back cover.

It has become more and more clear to me over the years since, why this passage has become so important to me - **If I can nip in the bud the temptation to judge another person, I will be less inclined to fall into the trap of not forgiving that person.** Isn't the act of forgiving the only thing we are asked to do ourselves, in the 'Our Father'? (*On October 20, 1944, answering a question Maria asked Jesus about the reason for an experience she had in 1941, He said:*)

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'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 Readers,

The class is studying a unit on why people need religion or, for some cultures, a form of spirituality. It was evident that while people are born into a religious/ spiritual community, they still have to undergo a rite of passage or a sacrament of initiation to belong to, or to be recognised as an adult. After watching 3-5 minute videos on Catholicism, other Christian faiths, Orthodox, Indigenous, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and groups in Africa, they learnt about the preparation, the clothes, the rite and the celebration afterwards. They realised that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, they were prepared for the rite, but they were not actually examined on the day like the Jewish boys, in particular. They wondered about Jesus so we looked in the bible where Jesus was in the Temple but we only found one verse: *'Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.'* (Luke 2: 47).

In order to give them more clarity on Jesus, I shared the Maria Valtorta passage of Jesus being examined in the Temple when He came of age - the whole of Chapter 40 and I indulged them further by presenting Marjiam's experience in Chapter 201 because of the similarities and differences. From both chapters, they noted the following:

Jesus' Examination

-There were a few relatives with Jesus along with Mary and Joseph

-There were ten doctors who examined him

-There was an element of prejudice regarding from where Jesus came and therefore, His level of intelligence

-Joseph introduced Jesus and presented the paternal speech about being free from the responsibilities of Jesus' actions and from then on, Jesus would take responsibility for Himself

-Jesus was confident and without fear

-Jesus was tested on the Decalogue

-Jesus was questioned on who taught Him to bow deeply every time He mentioned the Lord, and Jesus explained

-He was questioned if it was lawful to work on the Sabbath and Jesus explained that an act of nature is not a sin but the will of the Creator

-Jesus was tested on the symbols

-Jesus was asked to recite a psalm, the blessings and the prayers

-Jesus was also asked to recite the precepts

-In conclusion, the ten doctors suggested that Jesus be educated to become a new great doctor. Joseph responded that Jesus would make His own choice

-'A clever answer and a very wise one. We seldom hear that on the lips of adults; in a child, and a Nazarene in addition!' 'The Child is perfect. Not even the trap of the tricky question has upset Him in His reply. Let us take Him to the real synagogue.'

-They shortened His hair, then tightened His red tunic with a long band turned several times round His waist, they tied some little fringes to His forehead, arm and mantle

-At the end of the ceremony, Jesus went out with Joseph and they joined their male relatives, they bought and offered a lamb; then, with the slaughtered victim, they reached the women. Mary kissed Her Jesus and noticed He looked more manly in His clothes and in the style of His hair

Marjiam's Examination

-There was big group there for Marjiam: Peter, Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus and Mary and all the apostles except for Judas

-Marjiam was very nervous and looked pale. He asked Mary and Jesus to pray for him. He clung on to the hand of Peter and John as he did not feel safe

-Joseph of Arimathea was the spokesperson at the examination. Peter played his part too

-There was an element of prejudice towards the adopted boy regarding his age and guardianship

-They were all wearing their best clothes

-Marjiam was well dressed in pale red

-There were ten examiners

-Peter was not given the chance to give his paternal speech at this time of the rite

-Marjiam was tested on the Decalogue

-He was questioned on the sacred fringes - and why they were worn and what they represented

-He was asked to explain the law on eating meat

-He was asked to recite the precepts

-Peter was finally able to deliver his paternal speech-with attitude

-They cut Marjiam's hair and added fringes to his clothing

-When the ceremony was over, they got the lamb for the sacrifice of praise to the Lord

-Joseph of Arimathea offered to throw a celebration

-Marjiam stated that he wished to be a fisherman like his father.

The class had been taught that Jesus was fully divine but he was also fully human so they were in awe at the interaction between Jesus as a young boy, and the impressed doctors. They also noticed the unexpected rudeness of the doctors and Peter's tone in response to his treatment. The class really appreciated this detail.

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Thanks to Maria Valtorta's extraordinary works, the class was left satisfied with the depth and insight given about the Jewish rite of passage.

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

I have exciting news! The book that Fr. Anthony Pillari and I wrote, *Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ*, which I mentioned in the previous newsletter has been translated into Italian and will be sold in Italian later this year by the Centro Editoriale Valtortiano (the worldwide publisher and distributor of Maria Valtorta's works).

The English original is still available on Amazon in paperback book and Kindle versions.

Where to Order: You can order here on Amazon.com:

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

Reviews:

Shelley Davis *5.0 out of 5 stars*

[Pinpoints a key reason to value Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ.](#) This is a valuable, short book on a controversial topic. The authors are up front about the facts and the resistance of some in the Church to appreciate the monumental work of Italian mystic Maria Valtorta. More importantly, they offer the personal endorsements of three holy persons and explain why that should matter to us in assessing the value of Valtorta's work. The authors add their canonical expertise to the book without bogging down the smooth flow of the narration for the average lay reader. This is a great book for anyone that has been on the fence about whether to dive into the 10-volume work. Nevertheless, critics of Valtorta would likewise find it enlightening and Valtortan devotees will be pleased with this information and support.

Lefebvrist *5.0 out of 5 stars*

[Best Life of Christ](#) This book should help demolish the main objections to reading this masterpiece of sacred literature. Thank God for these authors.

Fr. Pillari and I need more customer reviews on Amazon.com on our book page to encourage others to consider buying it to learn more about Valtorta and the benefits that her writings bring. The more reviews, the higher the likelihood that those considering Valtorta will buy our book. If you get a chance, after reading our book, please leave a review. To do this, load the website page for our

book (given above), click "Write a customer review", and then click "submit". Let us know if you need help and we can assist you with this process.

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

God bless you all!

Stephen (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group PLUS ONE Annual Gathering 2019

Sunday, 13 October, 2019

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 acknowledge Maria Valtorta's work in a relaxed, informal setting

Cost: FREE

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

Tea/Coffee will be available

BYO lunch or

Glenferrie Road shops - 100m up the road

(Nandos, Subway, coffee shops)

Program outline:

- **9:30 am** Meet & Greet in the Hall
- **10:00 am** Sunday Mass with parishioners
- **11:00 am** Back in Hall – Welcome
Listen to Maria Valtorta's equivalent to that Sunday's canonised Gospel reading
- **11:30 am** Readers' Group Session 1
- **1:15 pm** LUNCH
- **2:00 pm** Pray the Maria Valtorta Scripture rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
- **2:30 pm** Readers' Group Session 2
- **4:20 pm** Final Prayer

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.

LETTERS

New School

In the fall (autumn) of 2020, a small, Catholic boys' boarding school will open in South Central Missouri, USA. This school will be unique in many ways.

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that there are four modes of teaching: the scientific, rhetoric, logic, and poetic or Benedictine mode. The first three modes of teaching are focused on teaching the mind; whereas,

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the Benedictine mode focuses on teaching the heart to strive for what is good, true and beautiful (the essence of God).

The school will use this Benedictine mode by reading & studying several pages each day from *The Poem of the Man-God* (new edition renamed *The Gospel As Revealed to Me*), enabling a student to have listened to and studied the entire work over a four-year period as part of the curriculum. Imagine a school in which each student will have a clear vision on Christ and his teachings by utilizing *The Poem of the Man-God* which can touch one's heart like no other book. *The Poem* will echo throughout the student's life offering a clear vision on what he is called to be. I am the father of six homeschooled children and for the last 11 years, we have read 15 minutes from *the Poem* every day to our children. The subtle impact on our children's faith has been profound.

This brings up a second point: grace builds on nature. The environment of the school will be set on a working cattle ranch. A four-year school of life consisting of both the academic and work component is needed to form these young men into spiritual leaders for the next generation.

Although the funding for the building and first several years of operation of this project has been secured, finding the right people will be essential for it to become a reality - the right, qualified people (teachers, mentors, cooks) who can appreciate the importance of this mission. You must love the Church and want to be part of the solution to the crisis the Church finds itself in today with 90% of the youth walking away from the faith after high school. You will also need to be a witness of how Maria's writings have changed your life and have the belief that it can change others too.

Finally, this will not be a typical boarding school for rich kids. It is my hope that most of the students will be sponsored through scholarships so that any child could attend. Some of the tuition will be offset with the students doing in-house chores.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you the exciting news that a high school will soon open which will use Maria's writings to form the young men who will be the future of the Church.

Terry Werner, Missouri, USA

For more information, email Terry directly at:

lightrestorer@gmail.com

I can truly define sensing God in two words, unbearable fire, which is what Valtorta conveys so wonderfully in all of her writings, telling of God's great power and majesty, as being way beyond our limited earthly experience. And fire seems to be the best description, not just a simple fire, but a raging inferno. So, I work on all the endless faults of my human self with His help to grow closer to Him,

reading, re-reading Valtorta which seems always new, which I never tire of, and I've noticed that the material keeps running through my mind. Reading her work is like food, and it helps to explain so many questions not answered by other sources. The main reason I write of my experience is in the hope that it will somehow motivate others to read her work.

Brent Parisen, North Carolina, USA

I reflect from time to time on my journey over the past 33 years with Maria's writings in participation with Jesus and His plan for evangelising us in this increasingly Godless age. For me, I can say on reflection, that these writings have been by far the most significant feature in bringing me closer and closer to God. I never tire of reading *the Poem, Notebooks, Azariah, Romans*. I have been reading them on rotation now since 1986 when I first came to know about them on a pilgrimage. I always continue to get a huge amount out of them on each read and expect that will continue throughout my life. I find the writings to be hugely uplifting. To me, I quickly came to the view that these were indeed Jesus' words and His work, and I am strongly of the view that there was no way any human could have put this work together unless God was directing it. I do expect one day to enter heaven and I will be thanking Maria Valtorta for her suffering efforts which will be a significant factor in my having arrived there.

Noel Ashcroft, Mount Lawley, Western Australia

And to all of you, Jesus' disciples, who have kept us Valtorta Readers so well informed and 'connected' over the years with these bulletins, I offer my very sincerest of thanks. And may God bless you abundantly. **Barry Caldwell, North Carolina, USA**

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.)**

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 three 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.]