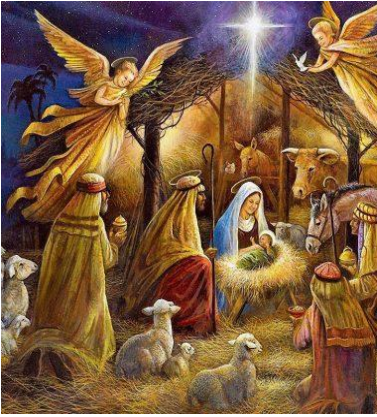


MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 96 DECEMBER 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

...You, King of the whole world, have mercy on this planet and on us who are settled here. You, King of Peace, give peace to the world and to us. You know that we cry, console us. You know that we suffer, ease us. You know our every need, help us.

(*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

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

Bulletin: In recent weeks, I have been asked for clarification about passages in Maria's works for which I am grateful because this prevents errors from occurring at the expense of questioning the authenticity of Valtorta's works. I am not saying I have all the answers but my knowledge of Italian enables me to refer back to the original or I am able to view it in context. Not to mention that I have David, Stephen or a contact at the MV Foundation in Italy if need be. Hence the Clarification Column in this edition. I hope you find the other Columns enriching too.

Supplement: This month's theme was inspired by the study of the saints in Catherine's Classroom. May God bless you and all yours at Christmas.
Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

For many years since the establishment of the Readers' Group, I stocked a booklet published in Canada entitled *The End Times - As Revealed to Maria Valtorta*. About seven years ago, this booklet went out of production, and its publishers told me

they had no plans for a new edition. So I decided to put together a new booklet on this theme, for Readers' Group members.

Realizing that the material in the Canadian booklet had been sourced only from the five volumes of *The Poem of the Man-God*, I combed Maria Valtorta's six other books (her *Autobiography*, her three *Notebooks*, the *Book of Azariah*, and her *Lessons from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*) for extracts on the End Times theme, and produced a much more complete selection of relevant passages. This can still be purchased from the MV Readers' Group at a cheaper price than the Canadian booklet. It is entitled: *The End of Times Prophecies from 'The Word of God', through the Writings of Maria Valtorta*. Here is an abbreviated selection of extracts on a particularly vital theme from this booklet's pages:

The 'Warning'

(*There have been many recent speculations from various 'visionaries' around the world, about a (so-called) 'Warning' – an illumination of conscience or mini-judgement for all people on the earth - preceding the 'First Judgement' at death, and the 'Last Judgement' at the End of Time. Maria recorded the following passages...*)

(Jesus says to us through Maria Valtorta:)

'...Go and reject the signs I send you from Heaven, and laugh at the celestial warnings... When you least expect, I will have you experience a sign before which you shall plummet in terror, and the wrath you now unleash against the defenceless will be flung back upon you...' (*Notebooks 1943*, p. 462)

(Jesus says:)

'...I will come tirelessly, and to each individual, to try the doors to hearts...' (*Notebooks 1943*, p. 527)

(*In the following passage, the apostles are discussing whether Jesus ever gets tired of people's misunderstandings in a 'world that is not holy'*)

[And John tells Andrew that Jesus told him:]

'...I must act as if the whole world were of ignorant but good people... The children of Truth will be

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separated from those of Falsehood... This is like a first judgement, not a universal or collective one, but a single judgement...

The first judgement of the mass of human people will take place in the world where men act freely in front of Good and Evil, Truth and Falsehood, [just] as the first judgement took place in the Earthly Paradise in front of the tree of Good and Evil, infringed by those who disobeyed God.

Then at the death of each individual, the judgement already written in the book of human actions by a faultless Mind, will be ratified.

The Great, the Terrible Judgement (Mt. 25:31-46) will be the last one, when the mass of men will be judged again. From Adam to the last man. They will be judged for what they freely wanted for themselves on the earth...'

(*The Poem*, Vol. 3, p. 315; *The Gospel*, Vol. 5, p. 253.)

God bless,

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Readers,

The task for the class consisted of selecting a saint from the list given, a few of whom were more recent such as St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Teresa of Calcutta. The content needed to deal with their family background and life, and reveal in what way the saint was devoted to Jesus – to the Holy Child, His Holy Name, Jesus' wounds, or His Passion, to name a few. During class, in paired presentations, it was evident that all of these saints led very interesting lives with special graces but the common link between them was their suffering. The last pair presented St. Therese of Lisieux of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. The content was hopeful and inspiring because St. Therese would do charitable acts for Jesus every day and she would move the beads in her pocket to keep count of these deeds which encouraged her to do more. She loved the Child Jesus and she herself tried to remain childlike all her life for which she was rewarded. She was even a doctor of the Church and known as 'the little flower'. The class showed a preference for this method of holiness as it was appealing to Jesus and worthy of reaching heaven...a seemingly easier and doable method than the lives of others even though she died at the age of 23. At the end of the presentation, I read them a Valtorta passage where Jesus talks about St Therese's love for Jesus and her childlike ways.

Jesus says: 'Little Therese - who resting on empyrean clouds, incessantly plucks the petals off roses, and two angels help her to convey her rain of roses over the world - was a true likeness of Me as a Child. [...] My little great flower was Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. [...] she bore a likeness to my sweet childhood - its gentleness, grace, and simplicity. This was what I wanted, and I

guided her this way with inspiration to give you a model [...] Therese is for all. All can strive to imitate her. Even those who are scarcely formed spiritually. Do not believe, though, that Therese was spared. Oh, no! She shows you a loving, smiling face, the peaceful face of a happy child. But within her, my Passion hollowed her out with a scalpel of fire. [...] And observe that little Therese, with the heart of a hero, had to force herself [...] to give you the impression which I wanted, for her spirit led her towards eagle's flights and fiercer forms of heroism. [...] She wanted 'spiritual childhood' as her form of sanctity, and she became so perfect therein that she really was a second little Jesus.'

(*Notebooks 1944*, pp.392-3)

The class was now introduced to many more interesting and inspiring saints, and they also learnt to recognise them from their images (holy cards). However, in addition to this, it was evident that those close to Jesus had a life and a love of suffering which these students could not fathom in a society where removing suffering through medication and Euthanasia is so prominent...but this would be a lesson for another day.

I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,

I spoke at a Marian conference this month about Fr. Pillari's and my recent book: *Maria Valtorta's Life of Christ: Treasured by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed María Inés Teresa Arias, and Blessed Gabriel Allegra*. This book is available on Amazon here:

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

Many people found the talk helpful and I sold over 30 copies to attendees, with several also planning on ordering online. Most people were not aware of many of the things I told them in my speech, including how three beatified or canonized people treasured and promoted Valtorta's writings. I'll provide more details in the next bulletin after I receive a copy of my talk recording. In the meantime, please consider gifting a loved one with the book which might help open them up to Valtorta's magnificent writings.

God bless you,

Stephen Austin (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

THE MV FOUNDATION IN ITALY FUNDRAISER

The Maria Valtorta Foundation in Italy (CEV) is requesting donations to help safeguard and preserve the handwritten manuscripts which are the most valuable part of Valtorta's heritage, showing how and with which tools Maria Valtorta wrote the works. For this reason, the Foundation has decided to

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undertake an intervention to safeguard and preserve this priceless heritage. Contact Emilio Pisani at Centro Editoriale Valtortiano if you wish to make a donation. It was the Pisani family who bought Maria Valtorta's home and it is open for free to any visitor.

THE MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP ANNUAL GATHERING 2019

Dear Readers,

What better way to describe this year's intimate 2019 Maria Valtorta Gathering than with and through the eyes of a Reader.

Sixteen people attended and it was very lovely to begin the Gathering by going to Mass.

(When we returned to the hall, we listened to Maria Valtorta's equivalent to the Sunday Gospel which not only included the curing of the ten lepers but humorously presented the impatience of Peter, in particular, and the apostles towards the lepers.)

Beginning the first session, we divided into two groups. I was fortunate enough to sit with Catherine together with David Murray and we were asked to select, at random, a passage from MV and to share it with the group.

I am sure the Holy Spirit was working here because strangely, the passages we read tied in with each other. The random passage that I selected and read to the group was the passing of Joseph with Mary and Jesus by his bedside. As I was reading this beautiful passage of Joseph dying, I could really picture the scene in my mind - the absolute loving bond between husband, wife and son. And Jesus who had the power, submitted to God's will, to allow Joseph to go peacefully. We were then able to capture the very human side of both Mary and Jesus in their sense of real, deep sorrow and grief with his departure. Tears were starting to well up in my own eyes and to my astonishment, tissues had to be passed around the group.

In the second session after lunch, we decided to form one group where the readings and the sharing were just as inspiring. We finished the session by reciting the Rosary from the blue booklet, *Praying the Rosary with Maria Valtorta* followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. (David then sang a beautiful rendition of a song, unaccompanied in any way, to end the day.)

Many thanks to you, Catherine, for organizing the Gathering and the many hours spent in the lead up to the day.

Len Moore, Ringwood, Victoria

CLARIFICATION - JUDAS OR LAZARUS

Jesus who was suffering on account of Judas had just been speaking to and comforted by Simon Zealot but then speaks to Maria: '... I was truly a man amongst men. I was the Man. And that is why I suffered seeing the traitor and ungrateful people. That is why I rejoiced on account of those who loved

Me or were converted to me. That is why I shuddered and cried before Judas' spiritual corpse. I shuddered and cried before My dead friend. But I knew that I would call him back to life and I rejoiced seeing his soul already in Limbo. Here... I had the Demon in front of Me. And I will say no more.'

(*Poem, Vol.1, p.448; Gospel, Vol. 2. P.49*)

Notice how Jesus already sets up a contrast between those who loved Him and those who did not. Therefore, it is evident in context that these sentences do not all relate to Judas for the bible tells us that Judas' soul was never saved. While Jesus is commenting on not being able to save Judas' soul who was His apostle, it is contrasted against Lazarus whom Jesus refers to as "My dead Friend" whom He did resurrect after Lazarus had been dead for four days and whose soul was already saved because we are told that his soul was waiting in Limbo (he was not in Hell) till Jesus brought him back to life. Jesus was on his way to see Lazarus in the next chapter. When Jesus says: 'Here...I had the Demon in front of me' he is referring, instead, to Judas who was possessed.

CLARIFICATION – NIKE (VERONICA)

Regarding the presentation given in class on St. Veronica (refer to Catherine Classroom), I noticed the students labelled the title page St. Veronica (Berenike). No other comment was made. So I looked up 'Berenike' because I noticed it ended in nike and came across a podcast by Dr. Taylor Marshall called 'St Veronica in 9 Points: Was she Berenike?' He explains that Berenike (pronounced Beranicay) in Greek (Bernice in English) – means bearer of victory. The b and v are sometimes interchangeable in ancient languages. Abraham was also known as Avraham. So when translated into Latin, it changed to Verenike (pronounced Veranicay). It was even thought this name was transposed onto this woman because Vera means true and iconica means image, so they called her Veronica on whose veil was the image of Jesus.

As I mentioned in another edition of the Bulletin, it is customary in some countries to shorten people's names at the tail end. In some cultures, Christina is shortened to Tina just as Albert is shortened to Bert. **Berenike** and **Veronike** both end in **Nike** which may explain why the woman was called Nike (pronounced kneekay).

In this same podcast, Dr. Taylor Marshall mentions in point 8, that the Nike mentioned in the private revelation of Maria Valtorta in *The Poem of the Man-God* is Veronica (although he says he does not know where he stands on these writings because he is usually sceptical of private revelation). That's okay. I was still thrilled. I only pray that more highly respected and learned Catholics will be drawn with conviction to Maria Valtorta's works one day. Everything in God's time.

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READER'S CHOICE

When reading *the Poem*, I will sometimes stop to ponder a lesson being taught and jot down Jesus' words...At other times, I'll become aware that tears are sliding down my cheeks; or, I'll realize that I'm smiling. But, it wasn't until this year, a month ago, that I actually found myself laughing out loud. [so I would like] to share a joyful moment with other Valtorta readers.

[Visualise] the scene that unfolds in this way.

Jesus, and his followers, are traveling through Samaria, but keeping to roads and paths of the rugged mountains while bypassing towns and villages where the Pharisees are searching for him. Nevertheless, while still on the road, Jesus cures a shepherd's dying son who lives in a nearby village. A short while later when the shepherd discovers that his son has been cured, the village erupts in shouts as the residents spread out looking for the 'Rabbi'. But Jesus' group has already melted into the forest. Later on the road, Jesus also cures ten lepers.

(Maria says:) '...And Jesus leaves the road without going into the little village, He walks through a field, He then crosses a little stream and a path and climbs the eastern hillock, all covered with woods, which He enters with His disciples saying: "We will follow the road walking in the wood, so that we shall not get lost. After that bend, the road runs along this mountain. We will find a grotto in which we can sleep and at dawn we shall be beyond Ephraim..."

And Jesus, in fact, thinks that He will be able to get past Ephraim at the first light of dawn, while the town is silent and its streets deserted, without being seen by anybody. He prudently goes round the town without entering it, despite the very early hour. But when, coming from the little lane at the rear of the village, they arrive at the main road, they find the whole village, I would say, waiting for them...'

(Poem, Vol. 4, pp. 444; Gospel, Vol.7, p.423)

Barry Caldwell, North Carolina, USA

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

The End Times \$11.00
Praying the Rosary with Maria Valtorta \$9.50
The Nativity, the Shepherds and Wise Men \$4.00
Celebrating Christmas with the Shepherds \$2.50
St. Therese & Maria Valtorta \$2.50
The Autobiography of Maria Valtorta (which also refers to St. Therese a number of times) \$14.50
Priests of Jesus \$4.00
Many Meanings of Love \$12.50
Mary, Mother of the Redeemer & the Church \$18.00
Selected Parables \$17.50

Browse the many booklets listed on the [catalogue](#).

PLEASE NOTE: From 1 MARCH 2020, *the Gospel As Revealed to Me* will be increased from \$34.00 per book to \$35.00. No other increases.

LETTERS

(A letter received and passed on to us from our NZ agent, Gwen.)

We had our annual Retreat from 18-23 November. Our Retreat Master was a priest from Indonesia. The theme for our Retreat was 'Journey to holiness'. In our Diocese, 19 priests and our Bishop attended. Indeed the booklet 'PRIESTS OF JESUS' helped me a lot in the retreat. I used some [passages] in it for my homilies and sharings, and I have impressed our Priests. I really thank you for it as it benefitted me a lot.

Fr. Albert Kalu, Solomon Islands

I bought *the Poem* about 20 years ago and skimmed through the pages, reading only what I wanted to know, as I had a busy life at the time. Now 20 years later and retired, I am thoroughly engrossed in the books and love reading the words and story of Jesus.

Notwithstanding the critics, I feel to read the books with a spiritual heart gives you the real meaning intended with *the Poem* and makes the Gospels come alive. Like in Jesus' time, I don't worry about the nitpicking of the critics as if to say my faith would be shaken by minor inconsistencies they point out. They need to realise the culture and tradition of the times and the language spoken is naturally not the way we speak to each other today... So while the critics feel they have some points, I say they have not entered into the spirit of *the Poem's* intentions to know Jesus better and Mary's role in the salvation history.

Zelma Phillips, Victoria, Australia

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

Gerry Ryan

A long-time Maria Valtorta Readers' Group member

SUBSCRIPTIONS - HARDCOPY

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- **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.]