

## MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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### BULLETIN No. 97 MARCH 2020

'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

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### PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

'Oh! Come to me, O sweet thorns, O dear nails! To me this crown, to me these blows, to me these nails on this hard wood! May the head of my Redeemer rest on my chest and on my heart...I want to quench his fever and console his agony.'

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p.55)

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### 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)

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### EDITORIAL

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,  
This year, 2020, is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church. St. Joseph is also the Patron of workers, families, the sick and the dying.

Look at how the world is suffering spiritually, let alone in a temporal sense. Due to the serious state of the Church – its human leadership and the tepid followers - there has been a worldwide call for people to consecrate themselves to St. Joseph through a 33-day novena, a 9-day novena, the 30-day devotion to the Holy Cloak of St. Joseph or praying the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary, while meditating on St. Joseph along with Jesus and Mary in each of these mysteries. This 97th edition of the Supplement is also very significant because after the December issue, we celebrated the feast of the most Holy Family

(27 December), and before our next June edition, we will be commemorating the feast of St. Joseph (19 March) and St. Joseph the Worker (1 May). So how can the focus of the Supplement not be on St. Joseph when everything seems to point to him in these times? In researching passages for the Supplement, I was surprised by something that should not have surprised me at all. The information in the bible on St. Joseph would have been more than enough (if not, very light on) for the Supplement. However, don't we all read Valtorta for the reason that she gives us so much more information? As a consequence, this edition will be Part One and it will present a snapshot of St. Joseph from her Major Work - *The Gospel As Revealed to Me* (formerly *The Poem of the Man-God*). The June Supplement will be Part Two and it will present St. Joseph from Maria's other Works. These writings really do feed our mind and souls to an unfathomable depth.

Let's give our prayerful support to the success of Fr. Donald Calloway and others who intend to approach Pope Francis to request that there be a year devoted to St. Joseph.

Two members of our Maria Valtorta Team, Stephen and David, have provided video links in their column where the former gave a talk at a Conference while the latter, an interview. Both talks are recommended viewing.

I do wish you and all yours a very Holy Easter  
Catherine Loft ([catherine@valtorta.org.au](mailto:catherine@valtorta.org.au))

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### DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

The 26 February, 2008 was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1948 pronouncement by Pope Pius XII - in front of three witnesses - concerning Maria Valtorta's major work *The Poem of the Man-*

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God. He said: 'Publish this work just as it is, without giving an opinion about its origin, whether it be extraordinary or not. Whoever reads it will understand.' (This day just happened to be my 76<sup>th</sup> birthday.)

On this day in 2008, the Readers' Group published a 159-page book of extracts – from *The Poem of the Man-God* and from her other writings – entitled: *Mary, Mother of the Redeemer and the Church – Her Life, Sufferings and Mission*. This little book was subsequently launched by Bishop Roman Danylak – a staunch Maria Valtorta devotee – in Toronto, Canada, and I believe that it remains to be one of the most significant undertakings of my 20-plus years of involvement with the management of the Readers' Group.

Charles Donovan from Western Australia writes: 'The new "Mary..." book brings back beautiful memories of *The Poem*, which you have gathered in one, single book... in your effort to promote Our Lady's role in our salvation history.' Twelve months later, on 26 February 2009, the Readers' Group published a 30-track Audio version of the book (with the help of my good and late friend Ed Ford from the U.S.A.), which was entitled: *Why is Mary Crying?* This Audio CD is available for purchase from the Readers' Group, and its 30 tracks can be listened to on the Readers' Group website [www.valtorta.org.au](http://www.valtorta.org.au) by clicking on the "Readers' Group Items" section of its sub-heading **Books, Booklets and Audios**.

*(For an introduction to each of the 30 tracks, I searched for the voice of a woman – without success – until my daughter, Robyn became aware of my predicament. And although she wasn't a practicing Catholic, she offered to fill the bill, in which she spoke the introductory words beautifully. Robyn died suddenly 18 months later, and I like to believe that what she did, helped her to "pass through the pearly gates" with flying colours. I still have the extraordinary audio track of the time we recorded this event together, and I'll be happy to email this track to any readers who may be interested.)*

God bless,  
David Murray ([david@valtorta.org.au](mailto:david@valtorta.org.au))

[Ed: A very happy birthday to you, David, from us all. To those of you who have known, or

have corresponded with David in the last 25 years, here is a television interview that David did on an Australian program called *Spirit of Life* last October which is beautiful to watch. Not only does David have a good speaking voice but he has a wonderful singing ability too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXuB4vZSUWs>  
24 minutes duration]

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### CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

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Dear Readers,

The beginning of Lent started a week ago with Ash Wednesday, and every year, RE teachers prepare their students for these 40 days. I asked my class what they had been told in previous years and whether or not their sacrifices, fasting or abstinence worked. Almost all of them said they had good intentions but they didn't get far, they were not consistent or they did not go the distance.

Then I asked them why they were doing it and they said it was to discipline the mind and body, to walk with Jesus, to show Jesus how much they loved Him or they were expected to do it because they were Catholic.

So without wasting time, I informed them that without real love in their hearts, they could never put Jesus or another person first and, therefore, they would never succeed. I informed them that there was a method they could use.

They had to focus and make it personal and say: '**During Lent, I want to...**

**1. Show Jesus that I Love Him.** (I suggested that as Jesus was not a visible/tangible presence, they should perform daily acts of kindness for Him **through** a visible person such as a parent, relative or friend in whom Jesus lives and whom they loved.)

**2. Walk with Jesus and imitate Him.** (During the 40 days in the desert, Jesus was tempted so they should abstain from something they really love, avoid temptation and develop self-discipline for the 40 days. It was clearly evident from their responses that this would be really challenging because they were very attached to their music, games and the media. So I had to remind them that, like their parents who make sacrifices for them, loving God and others needs to be the driving force once again)

**3. Atone for the sins of mankind like Jesus did.** (They could say a prayer they have learnt or talk to Jesus each day for 10 minutes to help

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atone for the offences they have committed against God or for others whose sins offend God.)

It was important that they did not try to let others know their intention because we read the passage in the bible about praying in secret (Mt 6: 5-6). This was followed by the Maria Valtorta passage on fasting in secret.

(Jesus says:)

'When you fast, do not look sad, as hypocrites do, who on purpose disfigure their faces that the world may know and believe that they are fasting, even if it is not true. They also have received their reward with the praise of the world, and will not receive another one. Instead, when you fast, look happy, wash your faces thoroughly so that they may look fresh and smooth, put oil on your heads and scents on your hair and smile like one who has been well fed. Oh! Truly there is no food that nourishes as much as love does! And who fasts with a loving spirit, feeds on love! I solemnly tell you that even if the world calls you "vain" and "publicans", the Father will see your heroic secret and will give you a double reward. One for your fasting and the other for the sacrifice of not being praised for it.' (**Poem, Vol.2, p.153; Gospel, Vol. 3, p.109**)

Hopefully, on Good Friday at 3.00 pm, they will be able to join their sacrifice to Jesus' who offers it to the Father, when He says on the Cross: 'It is accomplished'.

I planted the seed.

Catherine ([catherine@valtorta.org.au](mailto:catherine@valtorta.org.au))

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### STEPHEN'S UPDATE

Dear Valtorta Readers,  
Late last year I spoke at a Marian conference about Maria Valtorta and her life and writings. Please check it out on our website here:  
[www.valtorta.org.au/2019-Valtorta-Conference.html](http://www.valtorta.org.au/2019-Valtorta-Conference.html)

I hope you enjoy it and find it helpful. Feel free to share the video with others who may want to know more about Maria Valtorta's writings and why they're extraordinary.

God bless you,

Stephen Austin ([stephen@valtorta.org.au](mailto:stephen@valtorta.org.au))

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### CATALOGUE 2020

Attached is the updated catalogue for 2020. Please note that all payments for books or subscriptions by cheque or Money Order must be made **payable to C. Loft**. I am unable to

cash any cheques made payable to Maria Valtorta.

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### READER'S CHOICE One

[After reading edition 94], these pages 're-awakened my memory' of a prayer, copied onto a small notepaper. Words that had not passed my lips for a while; and a reading [that] my thoughts were in need of, as refreshment and renewal, containing the 'Prayer to the Most Divine Blood'. (**Patricia C, NSW, Australia**)

(Maria says:) Jesus further states:

'This time I will show Myself to you under another aspect. The Eucharist is Flesh, but it is also Blood. Here I am under the aspect of Blood. See how it drips and flows in rivulets over my disfigured face, how it runs along my neck, my torso, my robe, doubly red because it is soaked with my Blood. See how it bathes my bound hands and runs down to my feet, to the ground. I am truly the One who crushes the grape that the Prophet speaks about, but my love has crushed Me. Only a few are able to value the infinite price and enjoy the most powerful merits of this Blood I have entirely shed, down to the last drop, for mankind.

Now I ask those able to look at it and understand to imitate Veronica and dry the bloody Face of their God with their love. Now I ask those loving Me to medicate, with their love, the wounds men continuously inflict upon Me. Now I ask them, *above* all, not to let this Blood be lost, to gather it in with boundless attention, in its smallest droplets, and pour it upon those not caring about my Blood.

[...] Now, [...] I will have you pray to my Blood. Say the following, then: "Most Divine Blood that issues forth for us from the veins of God made man, come down like dew of redemption upon the polluted earth and upon the souls that sin renders similar to lepers. See: I receive You, Blood of my Jesus, and sprinkle You over the Church, the world, sinners, and Purgatory. Help, comfort, cleanse, set aflame, penetrate, and fecundate, O most divine Juice of Life. Nor may indifference and sin set an obstacle in the way of your flow. But, rather, for the sake of the few who love You and the numberless ones who die without You, hasten and spread over all this most divine rain so that people will come to You trustingly in life, through You be forgiven in death, and with You enter into the glory of your Kingdom. So be it."

That's enough for now. I offer my open veins to your spiritual thirst. Drink from this fount. You will experience Paradise and the savor of your God, and that savor will never fade for you if you are always able to come to Me with your lips and your soul cleansed by love.'

[...] (Maria says:) It is a sad, *extremely sad* Jesus, whose tears are mixed with blood, bruised, unkempt,

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dirty, with his robe torn, his hands bound, and the crown tightly thrust into his head. I distinctly see the crown of large thorns, not long, but very dense, which penetrate and scratch his flesh. Every hair has its drop of blood, and blood descends in rivulets from his forehead over his eyes, along his nose, and down onto his beard and neck and robe, dripping onto his hands; and his hands are so pale that it seems redder. It soaks the earth after having soaked his feet. But what is so very sad to see is his look... It is asking for mercy and love and, beneath its resigned gentleness, betrays an *infinite sorrow*.

**(Notebooks 1943, pp.120-1)**

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### READER'S CHOICE Two

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After reading the Bulletin where you referenced the Blood of Jesus from the Pieta prayer booklet, I purchased a copy and also read therein, where Jesus says that his most painful wound which has never been recorded, was his shoulder. I wanted to know more so I looked at *The Poem* and read the passages revealed to Maria Valtorta. After visualising her description, I felt such a heavy heart for this wound that was not singled out, that during Lent and in Passion Week this year, I will try to console Jesus and atone for this wound in particular.

**(Margaret Stevenson, Victoria, Australia)**

(Maria says:) The crosses are brought. Those of the two robbers are shorter. Jesus' is much longer. I say that the vertical stake is not less than four metres long.

I see that it is already assembled when they bring it. With regard to this matter, I read, ... that the cross was assembled on the top of Golgotha and that along the way, the condemned men carried only the two poles bundled together on their shoulders.

Everything is possible. But I see a true cross, well formed, solid, perfectly mortised at the crossing of the two arms and well reinforced with nails and screw bolts at the junction. And in fact, if one considers that it was destined to support a substantial weight, such as the body of a grown-up person, and had to sustain it also in its last convulsions, one understands that it could not be assembled there and then, on the narrow uncomfortable top of Calvary.

Before giving the cross to Jesus, they tie the board with the inscription, 'Jesus Nazarene King of the Jews' round His neck. [...] They are now ready. And Longinus gives the order of march. 'First the Nazarene, behind Him the two robbers [...].'

Jesus comes down the three steps that, from the lobby, take one into the square. And it is immediately clear that Jesus is in an extremely weak condition. He staggers coming down the three steps, hampered

by the cross weighing on His shoulder all covered with sores [...] by the oscillations caused to the body by the long stake of the cross, which bounces on the steps and on the uneven ground.

**(Poem, Vol. 5, p. 594; Gospel, Vol. 10, pp. 104-5)**

Jesus suffers tremendously in climbing, also because of the weight of the cross which, being so long, must be very heavy. [...] He finds a protruding stone and, as He is exhausted, He can lift His feet only a little, so He stumbles and falls on His right knee, but He can hold Himself up with His left hand. [...] He gets up again. He proceeds, bending and panting more and more, congested, feverish... [...] He stumbles again and falls on both knees, hurting Himself where He is already wounded; and the cross, which slips out of His hands and falls, after striking His back violently, compels Him to bend to pick it up and to toil painfully to put it back on His shoulder. While He does so, one can clearly see on His right shoulder the wound made by the rubbing of the cross, which has opened the many sores of the scourges, making them all into one, from which serum and blood transude, so that spot of His white tunic is all stained. **(Poem, Vol. 5, pp. 596-7; Gospel, Vol. 10, pp. 107)**

(Maria says;) Judas Thaddeus bursts into tears and shouts: 'My poor brother, how much You suffered! [,,] He could not speak... or drink... It was almost impossible for Him to look with His painful eyes through the crusts of blood that ran down from His forehead!... His garment was torn near His knee that one could see wounded, bleeding... His hands were swollen and wounded... He had a wound on His chin and cheek... The cross had made a wound on His shoulder, already cut by the scourging...'

**(Poem, Vol. 5, p. 781; Gospel, Vol. 10, p. 337)**

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS - HARDCOPY

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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 2020 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). Email 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.]*