

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

PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

Jesus says: 'The churches where I am left alone are numberless. In spirit, come into them.'

Maria says: 'I have ardently desired to come to see You, O my Eucharistic Sun. I have ardently desired to eat the Bread that You are for me. For this great desire, have pity on your servant, Lord.'

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p.20)

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,
Who would have thought that since the last edition, the world would change so dramatically with the COVID-19 and the impact it has had on people's health, the economy and most importantly, the Church. Let us continue to pray and trust in our loving and omnipotent God who is in control.

Many people prayed the 33-day St Joseph novena and consecrated themselves to him on the Feast of St. Joseph or on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, with many more on the journey. In this month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us lift up our spirit and renew our consecration to these two Hearts.

Bulletin 98: David Murray was so chuffed with the number of people who viewed his interview which was linked in the last quarter. His column in this edition is about the *End of Times* booklet. There is also an interesting article on a modern mystic and Maria Valtorta. **Supplement 98** is on St. Joseph - his Seven Joys and his Seven Sorrows.

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

THE END OF TIMES PROPHECIES FROM "THE WORD OF GOD"

Readers will be well aware of the extraordinary and unprecedented worldwide events now happening. Preceded by a growing number of climatic catastrophes – floods, droughts and bushfires – we are now experiencing the coronavirus pandemic.

Beginning in our earliest years, the Readers' Group offered a booklet produced in Canada entitled: *The End Times – As Revealed To Maria Valtorta*, and over the years, this was one of the most sought-after booklets which we made available. In the early 2010s, this book went out of print and the publishers told us they had no plans for a re-printing. So we decided to attempt a reprint ourselves, which we produced in 2013.

Recognising that the only source material for this (previous) booklet had been Maria Valtorta's three *Notebooks*, I combed through the index pages from 'The Pilgrim's Guide to *The Poem of the Man-God*' (Later converted to 'Where is it? A Guide to Maria Valtorta's *The Gospel As Revealed To Me*') and 'The Readers' Guide to Maria Valtorta's Other Writings'. In this process, I found considerably more material to add – especially from *The Poem of the Man-God*, from *The Book of Azariah*, and from the Holy Spirit's *Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*. This resulted in initially a wire-bound booklet of 92 pages then reprinted as a soft cover with a far more comprehensive outcome than before (157 passages compared to 86), and at a cost of about half the price of the previous booklet. My only contributions were in the selection of passages chosen, and in the sequence of their arrangement. I believe that these extracts from Maria's writings speak for themselves. In arriving at the sequence of passages, I was amazed at how quickly their order just seemed to fall into place. And in the light of current events, I have

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an idea of where the world is now, and where we are heading.

Here is the list of booklet parts and their sub-parts:

PART ONE: THE BUILD-UP

(a) A translator's preface; (b) Scriptural prophecies; (c) Maria Valtorta's writings – their scope; (d) Jesus' prophecies, revealed in *The Poem...*; (e) Modernism, power and knowledge, rationalism and science; (f) Satan's subtleties and influences.

PART TWO: THE PERSECUTIONS

(a) The sequence of episodes; (b) Signs of the times; (c) The antichrist; (d) The chastisement.

PART THREE: THE MERCY AND THE LULL

(a) The 'Warning', and chosen ones; (b) Prayer, hope and a call to courage; (c) The mercy of Jesus; (d) Mary, co-redemptrix and advocate; (e) The period of peace

PART FOUR: HELL AND HEAVEN

(a) Satan's last stand, and the mark of the cross; (b) Jesus' second coming; (c) The last judgement.

Here is some early feedback:

I've looked through your End of Times book and it is phenomenal! Great job! (*A seminarian in North America.*)

I received the book late last week and I'm having a hard time putting it down so far. It's just fantastic and a real blessing to be able to read. Thanks again & God Bless! (*Sharon Susa, Canada.*)

Thanks for your compilation of what Jesus says to Valtorta concerning the end days of this planet and all humankind. I reckon this booklet is an absolute essentiality not only for Catholics and Christians but for the whole world. (*John Lee, Australia.*)

God bless,

David Murray david@valtorta.org.au

[Ed: One of the many and invaluable publications David has put together.]

CATALOGUE ITEMS

1. *The End of Times Prophecies...* \$11.00
2. St. Joseph, A Role model for Fathers, Families and Consecrated People \$3.50
3. *The Poem Guide* \$10.00, *The Gospel Guide* \$20.00, *The Other Writings Guide* \$16.00

Please email Catherine@valtorta.org.au for orders and postage costs.

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

Dear Readers,

I have always loved teaching over the years and I have guided and worked with many generations, some of which are so different to the ones before because so much changes over time which impacts the family, behaviour and attitude. However, despite the stress and workload that spills into the evenings and weekends, it is a blessing to work with the youth, who, for the most part, are a product of their times. Mind you, I have also come across a few students that only a mother could love!

Over the years, students have become what I term as more 'spiritual' in the modern or ecumenical sense of the word, and less 'religious' as I have seen gaps in their knowledge of the faith. Along with many other RE teachers, I do my best to teach them knowledge rather than just following how they feel.

In the weeks that we have been remote teaching in Australia with a program called Microsoft Teams, it was obvious that on the whole, students were able learn content and most skills from home without too much difficulty but what they really needed was interaction with their peers. This is what makes them happy and it was for this socialising that they hungered.

As a consequence, I always started the lesson with a quick enquiry as to how they were faring. In one class, a student took the time to ask me how I was coping. My honest reply was that behind my cheerful façade, I wasn't coping very well at all. I informed them that I could cope with the new online teaching structure, with being around my home and family, and with physical distancing – no problems. However, I was aching and hungering for the church doors to be opened, for Masses, for confession, for my daily visits to the school chapel, and for the Eucharist. Some of these were available online and there was also spiritual communion, but I did not feel that the blessings were there. I felt like the physical part of me was functioning but my religious life was dormant and suffering.

I informed them that there were prophecies that said that one day, we would not have the Mass or the sacraments, but I could never fathom that in Australia – as it was now the case. They were also familiar with St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina who once said that

'...the world could exist more easily without the sun than without the Mass.' (**Pieta booklet p.49**)

Then I read them a passage from Valtorta that showed her sufferings were even more intense.

Jesus says: *'Another time I will speak to you of the other Bread, which would be healthy to eat every day, and to pray [to] the Father to keep it. Because woe betide that day and those places where there [will] be none through the will of men! ... Pray [to] the Father that He may defend His Bread and give [it to you].'* (**Poem, Vol. 5, p.777; Gospel, Vol.10, p.331**)

Maria Valtorta went one step further and explained:

'I was weeping because it was Friday, the day for Holy Communion, and I was deprived of it... The agony, always acute, became tremendous. My whole spirit, wounded, was moaning, and my flesh suffered as if mortally stricken... And, while weeping, I thought of ... my brothers in religion, ...[who] suffered with me and for the same cause as I. ...My Lord came and consoled me, saying:

"Here I am ... They do not let us be one ...Let us love one another, and may love be fusion." (**Notebooks 1945-50, pp.274-5**)

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Did the class understand how I felt? Probably but not fully. Did they grasp the depth of what St. Pio and Maria Valtorta felt? Probably not at all because many are unchurched or do not attend mass regularly for a whole range of reasons. However, they did listen respectfully.

I hope I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

MARIA VALTORTA NEWS

I received this information from Johnny Cantarella regarding **Antonietta De Vitis (1936-2004)** - a modern Mystic and Stigmatic who reportedly lived without food and water for 53 years. The Catholic diocese of Otranto, Italy is currently examining the virtues of Antonietta a mystic from Nociglia, Italy. Numerous extraordinary cures have also been attributed to her.

The following comments about Maria Valtorta, with my emphasis, is quoted from Antonietta's conversation with people and from her letters.

1. Antonietta was a Franciscan tertiary (Third Order Franciscan) who **was a devotee of Fatima, Saint Francis, Saint Clelia Barbieri, and the Italian mystics Saint Padre Pio and Maria Valtorta, who were her contemporaries.**

2. Antonietta **had visions of St Padre Pio, St Francis, St Anthony, Maria Valtorta and others.** This spirit of offering and generosity was rewarded with many mystical visions including the Virgin Mary, St Padre Pio, St Francis, St Anthony, St Clelia Barbieri **and her '...little sister Maria Valtorta, who was unknown to me until she herself gave me her name.'**

3. In her diary she writes: "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I declare the following:

Jesus was and is my only love who married my soul, to whom I have given everything through the Heavenly Mother, St. Francis, Padre Pio, the blessed Clelia Barbieri who came from heaven, at first unknown to me with my Angels **Azariah** and Elgidio, **to teach me to Love in the footsteps of a little sister always presented to me by the Lord, but unknown until she herself gave me her name: Maria Valtorta.** [Ed: I am going to try and find the original Italian of this letter, if these writings are available, for a better translation from the Italian because Azariah was Maria's angel].

It is interesting that Antonietta was a victim soul like Maria Valtorta. Here is the link if you wish to read the whole article.

<https://www.mysticsofthechurch.com/2020/05/antonietta-de-vitis-recent-italian.html>

READER'S CHOICE

There are many things I love reading in the writings of Maria Valtorta, among which are personal details of the apostles and how Jesus treated them equally.

I recently read the chapter on St. Thomas with his family and how loving and gracious Jesus is to children and to the elderly.

(Mary P, Brisbane, Australia)

(Thomas says:), 'Master, we shall soon be near Ramah. Would You come and bless my sister's baby? She is so anxious to see You! We could stop there. There is room for everybody. Make me happy, Lord!'

'I will, and with great joy! We shall enter Jerusalem tomorrow and we shall be well rested.'

'Oh! I will go ahead and warn them! May I go?'

'Yes, go. But remember that I am not a worldly friend. Do not compel your relatives to spend a lot of money. Treat Me as a "Master". Is that clear?'

'Yes, my Lord, it is. I will tell my relatives.' [...]

The others, who have seen Thomas and Marjiam go towards Ramah [...] quicken their paces to find out what is happening.

'We are going to the house of Tom's sister. I have stayed in all the houses of your relatives. It is fair that I should go to his as well. And that is why I sent him ahead.'

[...] Thomas, who is beside himself with joy and looks even more rubicund as his face is so bright, is waiting at the entrance of the village. He runs to meet Jesus:

'How happy we are, Master! All the family is here! My father who was so anxious to see You, my mother, my brothers!... How happy I am!' And he walks beside Jesus strutting through the village like a conqueror in triumph.

The house of Thomas' sister is at a cross-roads on the eastern side of the town. It is the typical house of a well to do Israelite [...]. Today the maidservant does not have to look through the peephole. The door is wide open and all the inhabitants of the house are lined up in the hall where the adults are busy holding back boys and girls, who, excited at the news, are restless and are continuously rushing to the front, thus infringing the hierarchical order, as the first row, the place of honour, is for Thomas' parents, his sister and her husband.

But when Jesus appears at the door, no one can hold the children back. They are like a brood of chickens coming out of their nest after a night's rest. And Jesus receives the impact of the kind garrulous group who clash against His knees and press Him, raising their little faces to be kissed, and will not move away, notwithstanding the fact that their fathers and mothers call them and Tom gives a few slaps to restore order.

'Leave them! Leave them alone! I wish the whole world were like that!' exclaims Jesus who has stooped to please all the children.

At last He can go in and is welcomed by the more respectful greetings of the adults. What I particularly like is the greeting of Thomas' father, a typical elderly Jew who is raised from his knees by Jesus,

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who wants to kiss him out of gratitude for his generosity in giving Him an apostle.

'Oh! God has loved me more than He loved anybody else in Israel because while every Jew has one son, the first-born, consecrated to the Lord, I have two: the first and the last one; and the last one is even more sacred because, although he is neither a Levite nor a Priest, he does what not even the High Priest does: he constantly sees God and receives His commands!' he says in the trembling voice of elderly people, made even more trembling by emotion. And he concludes: 'Tell me one thing only to make my soul happy. Since You do not lie, tell me: this son of mine, by the way he follows You, is he worthy of serving You and deserving eternal Life?'

'You may rest in peace, father. Your Tom has a great position in the heart of God because of his behaviour, and he will have a great place in Heaven because of the way he will serve God till he breathes his last.'

Thomas gasps for air like a fish out of water, deeply moved by what he has heard. The old man raises his trembling hands, while tears stream down the deep wrinkles of his face and disappear in his patriarchal beard, and he says: 'May the blessing [...] rest upon the head of Thomas, upon the head of him who is nazirite among his brothers!'

And they all reply: 'Amen.'

[...] Everybody is moved. Then they all utter a cry of joy while Jesus enters the house and they stop only when He is in the yard, where He introduces His Mother, the women disciples, the apostles and the disciples.

[...] Jesus goes out with the apostles and all the male relatives of Thomas to see some vineyards, which appear to be of a special quality. Both the old man and Thomas' brother-in-law enlarge upon the position of the vineyard and the rarity of the vines, which at present have but a few tender leaves. Jesus listens kindly to the explanations showing an interest in pruning and hoeing, as if they were the most useful things on the earth. At the end, He says to Thomas smiling: 'Shall I bless this dowry of your twin sister?'

'Oh! My Lord! [...] I know that Your very breath, Your presence in a place is already a blessing. But if You wish to raise Your hand on these plants, please do so, and their fruit will certainly be holy.'

'And will it not be plentiful? What do you say, father?' 'Holy... is enough. And I will press the grapes and will send You the wine for next Passover, so that You may use it in the ritual chalice.'

'Very well. I will look forward to that. At next Passover, I want to use the wine of a true Israelite.'

They leave the vineyard to go back to the village.

[...] I realise that Thomas has worked hard during the winter months and much of the Gospel is already known in the village. [...]

'And you people of Ramah, Be faithful... Peace be with you.'

And Jesus withdraws to the house of Thomas with all his relatives and the apostles.

(Poem, Vol. 3, pp. 508-516; Gospel, Vol. 6, pp.492-6)

LETTERS

I started re-reading the 'Poem' in February and I am really enjoying it. It is amazing how each time you read this amazing book(s), more insights appear. It is a truly wonderful work and it is so sad that there is such a reluctance to accept it, let alone promote it.

It was wonderful to see last year that Cardinal Williams has joined the list of supporters.

One thing I am really enjoying in this reading is the interplay between the Apostles. Some are not mentioned much but little bits of the personalities of the Apostles are exposed as you read. Quite amazing. Of course St Peter is such a big clown and he just opens his mouth and out come his thoughts like emptying his fishing nets. I used to be very frustrated with Judas and his behaviour until a little thought reminded me that I have done a lot of the things he does and that I sometimes think in a very similar pattern to the poor man from Kerioth.

'There go I but for the Grace of God.' **Jim Costello, Punakaiki, South Island, New Zealand**

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

Jim O'Regan

Husband of Domini, both long-time Maria Valtorta Readers from Christchurch
and

Paula Briese

another devout reader

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