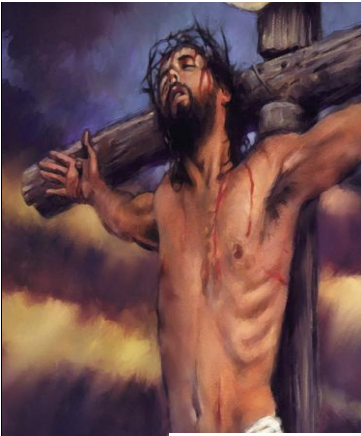


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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 101 - MARCH 2021

'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 my Jesus... Strengthen me with the holiness of the Blood that flowed from your Wounds, purify me with the Water that flowed from your open Heart. Set my soul afire with the splendour of your divine Wounds. Cause the rays of love that shine from them to pierce my heart with ardent arrows, and imprint there the image of your pierced Body so that I may become one who is crucified by love.

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, pp. 17-8)

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,
Due to unprecedented delays in stock arriving from Italy during the pandemic, I would like to thank those of you who waited patiently for months, and to advise that the *Notebooks & The Gospel as Revealed to Me* have finally arrived.

This Lent is even more challenging than the last. In 2020, we were fighting the pandemic but now there is so much conflict between people on a political, medical, social and religious level. Even groups who were once so like-minded are now attacking one another. There is a real urgency this Lent to pray the rosary, to fast and to atone for the sins of world even more. However, how comforting to remember and trust Our Lady's message to us: 'In the end, my Immaculate Heart will Triumph.'

Bulletin: The Readers' Choice is certainly noteworthy in this edition as there is also an audio Readers' Choice.

Supplement: As it is the season of Lent, with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus to follow, the relics particularly stood out this quarter.

Prompted by Our Blessed Mother, the collection of her 'treasures' hit a note for which we should be grateful.

Growing in faith,
Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY - CONTINUES

From the Depth of a Soul

Many years ago, I belonged to a group of people who were able to share various difficulties they were having - with friends who were good listeners. Some of these difficulties were tragic and seemed unsolvable but being able just to share them with others was very comforting, reassuring, and sometimes hope-giving.

A group of, say eight or ten, seemed a good number to give the needier ones time enough to share. But every now and then, only three or four of us would turn up, and there was a thought that such meetings would not take long. But not always so. Occasionally, this would provide time for deeper sharing – perhaps revealing what had never been told before. And on three or four occasions, I witnessed something so powerful, sometimes so tragic, and yet **so absolutely beautiful**, which I could find no words to describe.

For twenty years or so, I would recount such experiences, which had remained indescribable. And then one day, my parish priest responded to me: **'Don't you know, David, that we're all created in God's image and likeness?'** (*Gen. 1:26-7*) That was it! It seemed that what I might have been witnessing was a glimpse of each person's very soul! In 1999, the Readers' Group produced a little booklet entitled *The Genesis and Activity of a Soul* since which more than 600 copies have been sent to readers. It contained passages from the ten volumes of *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* (formerly the five volumes of *The Poem of the Man-God*), *The Book of Azariah* (two editions), and Maria Valtorta's 1943 and

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1944 Notebooks. Here are a few passages from this booklet:

(Maria describes a vision of the child Mary, three-years-old, at a wedding...)

'...Everybody wanted to kiss Her... And as She was averse to being kissed and touched, She said with kind gravity: "Please, do not rumple Me..." They assured Her that they would not crease Her dress...but sure of Herself, a little three-year-old woman standing in the middle of a circle of adults, said seriously: "I am not thinking of what can be mended. I am speaking of My soul. It belongs to God. And it does not wish to be touched, but by God..." (The next day she explained to Her friend Alphaeus:) "I am very fond of you. But I do not see you as a man. I will tell you a secret. I see only the soul of a living being. And I love it so much, with all my heart..."'

(Poem, Vol. 2, p. 287; Gospel, Vol. 3, p. 274)

(Jesus says:) '...Man was created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-7)... One of the likeliness is the capability for the soul of remembering, seeing and foreseeing... This faculty comes directly by God's will; sometimes it is a power of recollection... What treasure of intelligence God gave man, Adam! The Fall impaired it, but My sacrifice reinstates it and opens the splendour of Intelligence...'

(Poem, Vol. 1, p. 56; Gospel, Vol. 1, p. 70)

(Jesus speaks to Maria Valtorta, and to us all, of a phase in the salvation of another soul)

'...As soon as a soul that has repented in silence, dares to come shyly towards an apostle, weeping and thinking of its faults, fearing to be driven away, the apostle's heart must be *greater than the sea, more gentle than a mother's heart*, more loving than a bride's, and he *must open it completely* to allow waves of tenderness to flow from it. If you have God, Who is Charity, within you, you will easily find charitable words to be spoken to souls. God will speak in you and on your behalf, and like honey dripping from a honeycomb, like balm flowing from a phial, love will reach parched sickened lips; it will reach wounded souls, and will be relief and medicine...'

(Poem, Vol. 2, p. 507; Gospel, Vol. 4, p. 49)

May God bless and keep you all,

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

CATHERINE'S CLASSROOM

In our unit on Jesus, the class watched the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. Discussion ensued that while the death of Jesus was necessary for the salvation of mankind, why was Jesus born in an era where He had to die such a violent and painful death? Surely, death itself was the requirement for our salvation, therefore, why didn't Jesus come to us, and for us, in a later era or in more modern times where he would have faced a quicker death - the guillotine, given a lethal injection, the electric chair or

hanged, all of which would have still been notably painful – a true sacrifice? This would still have impacted the people – both believers and non-believers, and appease God by using a relatively quick method. Others in the class raised the point that during our times, there was also the possibility that Jesus may have been exiled instead, secretly done away with, be given a jail term or a life-sentence. Or, He would just be ignored as He is today by many. He may also be regarded as a religious madman or in contrast, be given the right to individual freedom of speech. They also proposed the possibility that the courts would defend Him and free Jesus but the execution of Justice in the current court system showed that, to some extent, a miscarriage of Justice could still take place today. More importantly, in this situation, Jesus would not be killed but imprisoned so maybe this era was not a consideration acceptable to God the Father.

It was at this point that I asked the question about the number of wounds that Jesus suffered and where they were inflicted. It was noted that Jesus was wounded on every part of His body, inside and out. Why? The reason is that Jesus offered Himself as a victim. Furthermore, in order for the sacrifice to be accepted by God for mankind to be saved, Jesus had to endure the pain on every part of His body with which people commit sin. I didn't name the sins but I did ask the class to think about the sins people commit. We remained quiet for a while. I didn't need to say more. They understood on a visual level the types of sins for which Jesus had to atone in order for His sacrifice to be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

I then read them a passage from Maria Valtorta which explains His sufferings.

Jesus says: 'You have seen how costly it is to be [a Saviour] [...] You have seen my sufferings. They were aimed at making amends for your sins. No part of my body was excluded from them, for *nothing in man is free from sins and all the parts of your physical and moral self [...] are instruments you make use of to commit sin*. But I came to cancel out the effects of sin with my Blood and pain [...].

My Hands were wounded and imprisoned after having wearied themselves to carry the Cross *to make amends for all the crimes committed by the hand of man*. From the real crimes of guiding and wielding a weapon against a brother [...] to those of stealing, writing false accusations, performing acts going against respect for your bodies and those of others, and idling in a sluggishness which is fertile ground for your vices. By [...] the use of your hands. you have caused mine to be crucified, nailing them to the wood, depriving them of all manifestly licit and necessary movement.

Your Saviour's Feet, after being wearied and cut upon the stones on the way to my Passion, were pierced and immobilized to *make amends for all the*

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evil you do *with your feet, turning them into the means to go to your crimes [...]*. My Flesh was stained, bruised, and lacerated [...]. I *made my Flesh* a wound to remove *from yours the venom* of Indecency, *lack* of respect, ambition, and worship of the flesh destined to become dust again [...].

My Head was tortured with a thousand tortures: from blows, sun, hoots and thorns, to make amends for the sins of your mind. Pride, impatience, irritation, and restiveness teem like a swarm in your brain [...]. How many acts of impatience you display over trifles, how many acts of intolerance over mere nothings, how many acts of restiveness over minor discomforts! But look at your Saviour. Meditate on how stimulating that constant piercing in different points, that entanglement of my locks of hair, and that continual dislocation not enabling Me to move my head to support it in any way that did not cause torment must have been! [...] And in my Head, my eyes had their torture; and the mouth, its own; and the nose, its own; and the tongue, its own. To make amends for your looks, which so love to see what is evil and are so forgetful of seeking God; to make amends for too many and excessively lying and filthy [...] words you say instead of using your lips to pray, teach and comfort; my nose had its torture, as did my tongue, to make amends for your acts of gluttony [...] and sins involving a craving for superfluous foods, with no mercy for the hungry, foods which you are often able to afford by resorting to the means of illicit gain. My organs were not free from suffering. None of them. Choking and coughing for my lungs, bruised by the barbarous flagellation and rendered oedematous by my position on the cross. Breathlessness and pain in my dislocated heart made infirm by the cruel flagellation, the moral pain which had preceded it, the fatigue of ascending under the heavy weight of the wood, and the anaemia resulting from all the blood I had already shed. Congested liver, congested spleen, and bruised, congested kidneys.

You have seen the wreath of bruises around my kidneys. Your scientists - to offer proof [...] of my suffering which is the Turin Shroud - [...] My kidneys, nearly shattered by the scourges, were no longer able to function. Like those of people burned in a blaze, they were unable to filter, and the urea accumulated and spread throughout my blood and my body, causing the sufferings of uremic intoxication and the reagent transuding from my corpse which fixed the impress upon the cloth. Thirst. What torture was thirst! And yet you have seen it. [...] From the Supper on, I had no further comfort. And fever, sun, heat, dust and bleeding produced so *much* thirst in your Saviour. You have seen that I rejected the wine with myrrh *which produces a dazing of the sense of pain*. I wanted nothing to soften my suffering. [...] Only the Father knows what His Word suffered spiritually, morally,

and physically!' (**1944 Notebooks, pp. 158-66; Poem, Vol. 5, pp. 667-9; Gospel, Vol 10, pp. 194-99**)

The movie was visual enough but Jesus verbalising His Suffering increased our understanding far more. I planted the seed.

Catherine (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

BROWSING THE SUMMA

[Maria Valtorta's] detailed descriptions even extend into the field of medicine with an accuracy demanding medical expertise (which she lacked)! [Ed., an example is the medical component given by Jesus in the passage just read in Catherine's Classroom]

Dr. Nicholas Pende, an illustrious medical clinician, world-renowned endocrinologist, and a Consultant to the Sacred Congregation of Rites for the scientific examination of healings considered miraculous, wrote:

"...for me, it is a true masterwork both from the aspect of its style as from the beauty of its language and form."

"...What has aroused in me, a physician, the greatest admiration—and amazement—is for the expertise with which Valtorta describes a phenomenology which only a few consummate physicians would know how to explain—the scene of the agony of Jesus on the Cross...

Pity and the greatest emotion invade the Christian reader on reading this astonishing page, with its truly medical style, of Maria Valtorta's manuscript." [emphasis added]

An article relates, concerning the famous William F. Buckley, Jr. (who is considered the grandfather of the American conservative movement):

While Buckley admired Valtorta's powerful depictions of the Crucifixion, he may not have known how profound the source of her knowledge was in producing those depictions.

For example, Buckley wrote: "The account by Valtorta, or at least that much of it that deals specifically with the suffering endured, would be painful reading describing any death by crucifixion. Valtorta is excruciatingly absorbed by physical detail. Either she was once a medical student or else she studied anatomy, bone by bone."

The truth is that Valtorta did neither – medical school or studying anatomy. She had a very simple education. Yet, the profundity of her descriptions, which Buckley noticed, is not something that was lost on other observers as well. Dr. Nicholas Pende, an endocrinologist who (like Buckley) displayed immense surprise at the sophistication and accuracy with which Valtorta described Jesus' spasms during the Crucifixion visions, commented on her descriptions as constituting "a phenomenon which only a few informed physicians would know how to explain, and she does it in an authentic medical style."

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[Ed: To read the references and the footnotes cited, please refer to Stephen Austin: *The Summa & Encyclopaedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work*, pp. 271-2)]

READER'S CHOICE – AUDIOS & PASSAGE

This quarter, a recording of a passage for this column has been sent.

1- I know who you are - the Holy One of God (16:28)
Read and sent in by Niki, from Montreal, Canada
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=vReCSKsbV9M>

2- I found inspiration beyond words in this passage!
Drew from the USA.

Jesus says: 'Today I want to speak to you about **grace**. [...] These lessons will be useful to you in the days of fasting. What is grace? You have studied and explained it many times. But I want to explain it to you in My own way in its nature and in its effects.

Grace is to possess the light, power, and wisdom of God in yourselves--that is, to possess intellectual likeness to God, the unmistakable sign of your filiation in God.

Without grace, you would simply be animal creatures that had reached such a point in evolution as to be endowed with reason, with a soul, but a soul on an earthly level, capable of acting in the circumstances of life on earth, but unable to rise up to the regions where the life of the spirit transpires. Little more than beasts, then, that act by instinct alone and, in reality, surpass you quite often in their way of acting. If you wanted to, you could all be capable of prodigies--that is, of holiness [...].

Not all the souls in grace possess grace in the same measure. Not because we infuse it to different degrees, but because you manage to preserve it in yourselves in different ways. Mortal sin destroys grace; venial sin causes it to crumble; imperfections make it anemic. [...] The world is collapsing because grace is collapsing in almost all souls and languishing in the others.

Grace yields different fruits to the extent that it is more or less alive in your hearts [...]. The vital elements are to live according to My Law--chaste, merciful, humble, loving God and one's neighbour; it is to live by **living** prayer. Then grace grows, flourishes, sinks in deep roots, and rises up into the tree of eternal life. Then the Holy Spirit, like a sun, inundates you with His Seven Rays, His Seven Gifts; then, I, the Son, penetrate you with the divine rain of My Blood; then the Father looks at you with pleasure, seeing His likeness in you; then Mary caresses you, clasping you to her breast, which bore Me, along with her little children who are lesser, but very, very dear to Her Heart; then the nine angelical choirs crown your soul, the temple of God, and sing the sublime **Gloria**; then your death is Life and your

Life is blessedness in My Kingdom.'

LETTERS

A dear sister of Notre Dame in New Orleans encouraged me to read the *Poem of the Man-God*. It changed my life and helped me to understand Jesus in a whole new way, so much more personal. I have shared it with friends who have had the same response. They are like gold to me. Tonight, Christmas night, I wanted to know more about the Magi and in reading your bulletin, my yearning was answered. God is so good to give us all that we yearn for that is about Him. May you be blessed for your work, time and effort. **Reader from the U.S.A.**

Over the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season, I read books by various authors for inspiration over the Season. I also re-opened my Volume 1 of ***Poem of the Man-God*** and read the passages from 'The Annunciation' through to 'The Dispute of Jesus with the Doctors in the Temple'. Looking back, although the other books were fine, 'the Poem' was all I really needed for heart-felt inspiration. This applies to many other times during the year, such as Holy Week and when reflecting on the Sunday Gospel readings (I am always inspired after listening to David's Sunday Gospel Readings on CD!). I just wanted to share that thought with you.

Carmel from Sydney, Australia

How I loved reading and re-reading The Supplement #100 about the three Archangels. They were all so beautiful, strong and majestic. Their roles were clearly defined and I felt so much trust and awe in God who created them, and so much love for them who had a free will, like us, and chose to love God and do His will. It is one thing to know about Archangels but quite another to see them through Maria's descriptions. Thank you.

Louise from Melbourne, Australia

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Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

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