

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia
Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine @valtorta.org.au Website: http://www.valtorta.org.au

MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP THE SUPPLEMENT No. 104 – DECEMBER 2021



A Youthful Maria



Maria's Tombstone



Bedridden Maria

READERS' CHOICE PASSAGES TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARIA VALTORTA'S DEATH

THE LOVE BETWEEN GOD THE FATHER & GOD THE SON

This is just one example of the great love Jesus and His Heavenly Father have for each other. Even though Jesus is equal in deity to the Father, He is deeply submissive and shows Him His complete dependence on Him as a human. In this passage, Jesus states that the Father leant on Him, also showing the great love and harmony they mutually had. And the Father would, in turn, refresh and strengthen Jesus for every endeavour (multiplying the fishes/loaves). And this would all be for the benefit of us humans.

A Reader in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

(Jesus says:) 'I wanted to be all alone to thank the Father for the miracle of the loaves. Thousands of people had been fed. And I exhorted them to say: "Thanks" to the Lord. *But once a man has been helped, he forgets to say "thanks"*. I said it on their behalf. And afterwards, I had merged with My Father for whose love I was infinitely sick. I was on the earth, but like a lifeless hide. My soul was thrust towards My Father, whom I felt leaning on His Word, and I said to Him: "I love You, Holy Father!". It was a joy to Me to say to Him: "I love You". To say so as a Man besides as God. I humiliated My feelings as Man, as I offered Him My palpitation as God. I seemed to be the magnet that attracted all the love of men, of men capable of loving God a little and that I gathered all such love and offered it from the bottom of My Heart. I seemed to be the only one to exist: I, the Man, that is the human race, conversing once again with God, in the cool of the evening, as on the innocent days.'

(Poem, Vol.2, p. 750; Gospel, Vol.4, p. 348)

THE PASSION OF JESUS

I have read the Poem of the Man God several times now but I always struggle to read the chapters in Volume 5 (The Gospel as Revealed to Me Volume 10) on the

Passion. The book stays ignored and unopened on the shelf until I finally steel myself and read another chapter. This section is so hard to read but (can I say) most beautifully written that one almost feels one is there. The recall and writing of Maria is just so breathtakingly brilliant that we want everyone to read this work but, of course, the same spirit that inspired the mob on this Friday of Passover is working stridently against this work. We can understand his frustration, especially as the writing on the Passion is a masterpiece. Many, many thanks to Maria Valtorta.

A Reader in Punakaiki, New Zealand

[Ed: There are 40 days in Lent (not counting Sundays) so if you have the **Poem** edition, there are 13 chapters on the Passion over 161 pages that you can divide over that time. If you have the **Gospel** edition, these are divided into 15 chapters over 203 pages). Please note: the content is exactly the same.

MARY MAGDALENE & CONVERSION

Prodding someone coming to grips too often ruins a good work taking root. Ruminating takes time, without disturbance, to let grace do its work and for the will to respond. The good sower of seeds understands this and lets God's Will be done with patience and prayer, and to accept he may never see the tree springing from the seed he has planted.

A Reader in Tennessee, USA

(Jesus says:) '... Let us bless the Lord. He wanted Me to come back here for the sake of sinners to say to you: "Forgive. Always forgive. Make every bad thing become a good one and every offence a grace." I do not only say to you "make." I say: Imitate My attitude. I love and bless My enemies because through them, I have been able to come back to you, My friends. Peace be with you all.'
The women in the crowd wave veils, the men branches: then all slowly depart after greeting Jesus.

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia
Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine @valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

'Will they have seen my shameless sister?'
'No, Lazarus. She was well-concealed behind the hedge. We were able to see her because we were up here, the others could not see her.'
'She had promised us...'
'Why shouldn't she come? Isn't she also a daughter of Abraham? I want you, My brothers, and you My disciples, to swear that you will not try to make her understand anything. Leave her alone. Will she laugh at Me? Never mind. Will she weep? Leave her alone. Will she stay? Leave her alone. Will she want to run away? Leave her alone The secret of the Redeemer and of the redeemers is to be patient, good, persevering and to pray. Nothing else. Every gesture is too much in the case of certain diseases.... Goodbye, My friends. I am staying here to pray...'

(Poem, Vol.1, p. 737-8; Gospel, Vol.2, pp. 399-400)

FOUR TEACHINGS

A passage that has helped me greatly is the four teachings given by Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper.

A Reader in Iowa, USA

Jesus says:

'In addition to the consideration on the love of God who becomes Food for men, four main teachings stand out from the episode of the Supper.

The First: the necessity for all the children of God to obey the Law.

The Law prescribed that a lamb was to be consumed at Passover according to the ritual given to Moses by the Most High, and I, the true Son of the true God, did not consider Myself exempted because of My divine quality, from the Law. I was on the Earth: Man among men and the Master of men. I had, therefore, to do My duty towards God as, and better than, anybody else. Divine favours do not dispense from being obedient and from making an effort towards a greater and greater holiness.

The second: the power of Mary's prayer.

I was God who had become Flesh. A Flesh, that being without stain, had the spiritual strength of dominating the flesh. And I do not refuse, on the contrary I implore the help of the Full of Grace, who in that hour of expiation would have also found Heaven closed over Her head, that is true, but not to the extent that She should not succeed in detaching and angel from it, since She is the Queen of angels, to console Her Son. Oh! Not for Herself, poor Mother! She also has tasted the bitter abandonment by the Father, but by means of that suffering offered for Redemption, She obtained and made it possible for Me to overcome the anguish of the Garden of Olives and to bring the Passion to completion in all its multiform bitterness, each of which aimed at cleansing a form and a means of sin.

The third: self-control and endurance of offences, the sublime charitable attitude towards all offences, as can be possessed only by those who make the Law of Charity the life of their lives, as I had proclaimed. And I had not only proclaimed it, but I had really practised it.

You cannot imagine what it was for Me to have the Traitor at My table, to have to give Myself to him, and humiliate Myself before him, to have to share with him the ritual chalice, and put My lips where he had put his, and make

My Mother do the same. Your doctors have discussed and still discuss the rapidity of My end and they say it originated in a heart lesion brought about by the blows of the scourging. Yes, My heart was injured also by those blows. But it had already been damaged at the Supper. I was heart-broken by the effort of having to endure the Traitor at My side. It was at the Supper that I began to die physically. What followed was only an increase of an already existing agony. What I was able to do, I did it because I was all one with the Love. Also when the God-Love withdrew from Me, I was able to be love, because I had lived of love during my thirty-three years. It is not possible to reach perfection, as is required to forgive and put up with our offender, if one has not acquired the habit of love. I had acquired it, and I was able to forgive and bear that masterpiece of an Offender, which was Judas.

The fourth: the more one is worthy of receiving a Sacrament, the greater is its effect. That is: if one has become worthy of it through persevering goodwill, that subdues the flesh and makes the spirit sovereign, mastering concupiscences, directing one's being towards virtues, bending it like a bow towards the perfection and above all of Love.

Because, when you love, you are inclined to make the person you love happy. John, who loved Me as nobody else did, and who was pure, received the utmost transformation from the Sacrament. He began as from that moment to be the eagle that is accustomed to soaring easily in the High Heaven of God and staring at the eternal Sun. But woe to him who receives the Sacrament without being worthy of it, and who, on the contrary, has increased his human unworthiness with mortal sins. Then instead of being the germ of preservation and of life, it becomes the germ of corruption and death. Death of the spirit and decomposition of the flesh.

The death of the profaner of the Sacrament is always the death of a desperate person who, therefore, does not know the placid passing away peculiar to those who are in grace, or the heroic death of the victim who suffers intensely but looks fixedly at Heaven and feels certain peace in the soul. The death of one in despair is marked dreadful contortions and terror, it is a horrible convulsion of the soul already gripped by the hand of Satan, who chokes it to detach from the body and suffocates it with his nauseating breath. That "the difference between those who pass away after being nourished with love, faith, hope and every other virtue and heavenly doctrine, and with the angelical Bread that accompanies them [...] in the last journey, and those who pass away, after the life of a brute, [...] that Grace and the Sacrament cannot comfort. The former is the serene end of a saint, to whom death opens the eternal Kingdom. The latter is the frightful fall of a damned soul, that feels it is falling into eternal death [...]. This is what you give yourselves, according to whether you believe and love, or you do not believe and you deride My gift. And it is the lesson of this contemplation.'

(Poem, Vol.5, pp. 518-9; Gospel, Vol.9, pp. 509-11)

THE SHEPHERDS

Happiness is a necessary and welcome human experience but, since it is momentary, it is fleeting. The shepherds did not hear the angels sing 'HAPPINESS to the world' but 'JOY to the World'. During their thirty years

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia
Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine @valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

of persecution, trials and setbacks, they never lost their Joy, a sure sign of the enduring ember of Hope.

A Reader in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA

(Jesus speaks) 'But just think, Judas, you have not yet suffered because of Me. These people have been suffering for thirty years, and they have never betrayed, *not even My memory they betrayed.* They did not know whether I was dead or alive... and yet they remained faithful. They remembered Me as a newly-born baby, an infant with nothing but tears and the need of milk... and they have always worshipped Me as God. Because of Me they have been beaten, cursed and persecuted as if they were the disgrace of Judea, and yet their faith has never faltered, neither did it wither under blows. On the contrary, it took deeper roots and became stronger.'

(Judas replies) 'By the way, for some days I have been anxious to ask You a question. These people are Your friends and the friends of God, are they not? The angels blessed them with the peace of Heaven, did they not? They have been faithful against all temptations, have they not? Would You explain to me, then, why they are unhappy? And what about Anne? She was killed because she loved You...'

'Are you therefore deducing that to be loved by Me and to love Me brings bad luck?'

'No... but ...'

'But you are. I am sorry to see you so closed to the Light and so open to human things...'

(Poem, Vol.1, p. 403; Gospel, Vol.1, p. 487)

THE SHEPHERDS

Something I have become very intrigued with is the shepherds from the time the Shepherd gave a drink to the Blessed Mother on her way to Bethlehem. They gave their kind, generous, loving support to the Holy Family. Then we read about the dreadful persecution they suffered. Elias lost his wife and children but through all this, they believed in the Messiah. We know that there were twelve apostles and we learn each of their names. After thirty years of not knowing what happened to the Divine Child, our blessed Lord comes to find them and they become His faithful Disciples. When reading the writings, we see them mentioned often. I think they are wonderful and I now invite them to join me when I am praying, especially when I say the Rosary. I can bring them into my meditation. Sometimes, I address them by name as 'Shepherds of Bethlehem, pray for us'.

A Reader in Morrinsville, New Zealand

(Jesus says:) The shepherds, the first ones to whom the Incarnate Word became manifest, were thereby left sanctified. Grace worked in them like a seed in the earth whose winter activity is not seen by man's eye, but which blossoms into a stem and spike when the time comes, and man sees it and rejoices, thinking of the future bread. In the shepherds, Grace thus worked during the thirty years of my concealment and then blossomed into a holy spike when the time came in which the good separated from the wicked to follow the Son of God, who passed along the ways of the world, casting forth his loving cry to rally together the sheep of the eternal flock, scattered and dispersed by Satan.

You would have seen them if you had been present among the throngs following Me. Even more: you would have seen them as my messengers, for with their simple, convinced narrations they proclaimed the Christ, saying, "It is He. We recognize Him. The lullabies of the angels descended upon his first wails. We were told that men of goodwill would have peace. *Goodwill is the desire for Good and Truth.* Let us follow Him. Follow Him yourselves. And we shall have the peace promised by the Lord."

Humble, ignorant, and poor, my first ambassadors among men stationed themselves like sentinels along the way of the King of Israel, the King of the world - faithful eyes, honest mouths, loving hearts, thuribles with the fragrance of their virtue, to make the air less foul around the Divine Person, who had become incarnate for their sake, and as far as the foot of the cross I found them, after having blessed them with my gaze along the bloody road to Golgotha, the only ones in the unrestrained mob who did not curse, but still loved, believed, and hoped and looked at Me with compassionate eyes, thinking of the far-off night and weeping over the Innocent One, whose first sleep was upon unpleasant wood and whose last was upon even more painful wood. This was because my epiphany to them, upright souls, had sanctified them.'

(Notebooks 1944, pp. 508-9)

(Ed: Visit our website

<https://valtorta.org.au/Newsletter.html> for

Supplements #80 & #81 which traces the Shepherds from the Birth of Jesus to His Ascension into Heaven.

THE ELECTION OF MATTHIAS

At the time of Catherine's request for a special edition of the Bulletin #104, I happened to be reading about the election of one of the Shepherds, Matthias, as the Apostle to replace Judas Iscariot [...]. This passage of the simple ceremony with stones to choose a shepherd Apostle touches me because of its simplicity, and it is so fitting because of what we are told about the shepherds. Thirty years after His Nativity, Jesus went in search of the shepherds, and told them: "My Mother always mentioned your names to Me, because you were My first friends." I always feel peaceful when the shepherds come on the scene in Maria's writings; they were always so loving, faithful, simple, humble, hopeful, helpful, compassionate, first adorers of Jesus, and willing sufferers for Him. Jesus loved them so much.

The booklet 'Christmas with the Bethlehem Shepherds' helps us to get to know the shepherds more individually, and to learn more about Matthias (originally Tobias) the twelfth Apostle.

Gwen, our agent in New Zealand

[...] The court-yard of the house of the Supper room, a large yard among the white walls of the house, is crowded with people as in the evenings after Resurrection. And a harmonious whispering of prayers, interrupted now and again by pauses of meditation, rises from these people engrossed in thought.

As the light becomes fainter and fainter in the court-yard, surrounded as it is by the high walls of the house, some people bring lamps and place them on the table, close to which the apostles are gathered: [...]. They end with the long and beautiful psalm 118, [...] then they all become

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

Postal address: 162 Burke Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146 Australia
Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine @valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

absorbed in silence until Peter, who had sat down, stands up, as if he were urged by an inspiration, praying in a loud voice with his arms stretched out as the Lord used to do: 'Send Your Spirit to us, O Lord, so that we may see in His Light.'

'Maran atha' they all say.

Peter collects his thoughts in an intense silent prayer, but perhaps he listens more than he prays, or at least he waits for words of light... Then he raises his head again and once again, he stretches out his arms, which he had folded across his chest, and as he is small as compared to the majority of his companions, he climbs on his seat to dominate the little crowd thronging the court-yard, and to be seen by everybody. And everybody, realising that he is going to speak, becomes silent and looks at him paying attention.

'My brothers, [...] it is written in the book of Psalms: "Let their house become desert, let no one live in it and let his office be taken by somebody else". So it is necessary that one of these men, who have been with us all the time that the Lord Jesus was with us, coming and going, beginning from the Baptism by John until the day in which from the middle of us He ascended to Heaven, is appointed to be witness with us of His Resurrection. And it is necessary to do so quickly, so that he may be present with us at the Baptism of Fire, of which the Lord has spoken to us, so that he, who did not receive the Holy Spirit from the Master, may receive it directly from God and be enlightened and sanctified by it, and he may have the virtues that we shall receive, and he may judge and remit and do what we shall do, and his actions may be valid and holy.

I would suggest to choose him among the most faithful of the faithful disciples, those who have suffered for Him remaining faithful also when He was the One Unknown to the world. Many of them come to us from John, the Precursor of the Messiah, spirits modelled throughout years for the service of God. The Lord was very fond of them, [...]

They consult with one another. After a short time, the most important disciples (among the non-shepherds), by mutual consent with the ten apostles, inform Peter that they propose Joseph, the son of Joseph of Saba, to honour his father, a martyr for Christ, by means of his son, a faithful disciple, and Matthias, for the same reasons as for Joseph, and, further, to honour also his first master: John.

And as Peter agrees to their advice, they make the two come forward to the table and in the meantime they pray with their arms stretched forward in the usual attitude of the Hebrews: 'Most High Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Only and Trine God, who know the hearts of all men, show us which of these two You have chosen to take in this ministry and apostolate the place of Judas, who prevaricated, and go in his stead.'

'Maran atha' they all reply in chorus.

As they have no dice or anything else with which to cast lots, and as they do not wish to use coins for this purpose, they take some small stones spread about the yard, some poor little stones, as many white as dark, and they decide that the white ones are for Matthias, the others for Joseph. They put them in a bag, after emptying it of its contents, they shake it and they offer it to Peter who, after making a

blessing gesture on it, puts his hand in it, praying with his eyes at the sky, strewn with stars, and pulls out a little stone as white as snow. The Lord has indicated Matthias as Judas' successor.

Peter goes to the front of the table and embraces him 'to make him like himself' he says. Also the other ten make the same gesture amid the applause of the little crowd. At the end Peter, after going back to his place holding by the hand the chosen apostle who is beside him - so Peter is now between Matthias and James of Alphaeus - says: 'Come to the place that God has reserved for you and with your justice cancel the memory of Judas, helping us, your brothers, to accomplish the deeds that Jesus told us to do. May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.'

He addresses all the others, dismissing them...

While the disciples disperse slowly through a secondary exit, the apostles go back into the house taking Matthias to Mary, who is engrossed in prayer in Her room, so that the new apostle may receive the word of greeting and election also from the Mother of God.

(Poem, Vol.5, pp. 878-8; Gospel, Vol.10, pp. 457-61)

A PRAYER OF LOVE

During this lockdown, the prayer below [given by Jesus to Maria] is one of the answers.

A Reader in New South Wales, Australia

(Jesus says:)

'Illness is not an obstacle for the loving heart. There are numberless churches where I am alone. Come into them with your spirit. Make up for others' lack of love.

Learn from Me to say,

"I have ardently desired.

I have ardently desired to come to You, Jesus,
who remain entirely alone on so many altars,
to tell You that I love You with my whole self.

I have ardently desired to see You, O my Eucharistic Sun.

I have ardently desired to consume my Bread,
which You are.

For the sake of so much desire,
have mercy on your servant, Lord.

Let me come to your heavenly altar
and adore You forever, O Lamb of God.

Have me see You with my soul enraptured in your Glory,
O my Divine Sun, who now appear veiled to Me,
because of the weakness of my condition
among the living.

Let me love You, as I would like to love You,
for blessed eternity.

Open the gates of Life to me, Jesus, my life.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

In the Communion of Light, may what is flesh perish
and may the spirit conquer You,
my Only and Triune God, the sole love of my soul."

(Notebooks 1943, p. 426)

Just as Mary obeyed the Will of God and gave us the Messiah that first Christmas, and just as the shepherds maintained the Joy of Christmas in their hearts despite their 30 years of personal and political sufferings, let us model ourselves on these holy people in these troubled times in 2021 and beyond.

May God always bless and protect you and all yours.