

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 78 – June 2015

'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 just as it is... those who read it will understand...'
– Pope Pius XII



Editorial

Dear Maria Valtorta Readers,

It was always my intention to pay tribute to David Murray for everything he achieved in the last 23 years of running the **Maria Valtorta Readers' Group**, but I did not know what shape it would take. I did not want it to sound mechanical or engineered, but I knew that it would be a feat in itself.

David spoke a lot in recent years of passing the baton but he never did - he could not let go, he was not ready to let go. He was like a dog with a bone protecting what was most precious to him. There was a great deal to entrust to another person because David was a scholar, a communicator, an editor, and a man of ideas, so whoever took over had to have passion, energy and most of all humility. Maria had to be first and foremost in all things, and the other person, small and insignificant.

Notice that you knew very little about David, and this was intentional because for David, the Bulletin and Supplement were never about him – they were all about Maria Valtorta, sharing his love and appreciation of her Works, and promoting these writings as best he could...in an unassuming way.

One day in February 2014, his attitude changed overnight. When Stephen Austin came to Australia from the USA, David, Patrick and I were seated together on Patrick's back porch all talking about our love for Maria and how we would like to share these Works with so many more people. Stephen is young, scholarly, energetic, passionate, as well as computer and website savvy. Patrick was eager to bring people together across the globe using an internet Forum in order to communicate with everyone, including the young and the isolated. With an Italian background, I wanted a closer rapport with Dr Pisani and the goings-on in Italy to keep everyone updated, and to translate more articles and writings from the original Italian for the Readers. That day, we shared and we planned. The atmosphere was electric.

Meanwhile, David sat back, never interrupting but just listening to us brainstorming without a moment's pause, only this time, for the first time, I caught sight of a new expression on his face; it was relaxed and smiling like a mother watching over her children. Yes, David was looking at us, at the future, and at the new direction of the apostolate. And yes, he was now ready to pass the baton.

Until that moment, David had been the long-distance runner who ran the marathon alone for such a long time, but now he knew that he was finally ready to run a different

race...with others and be a part of the 4 x 100 metre relay. Why?

David could see that we embraced his vision to get many more people reading the Works, he embraced our methods to do this in the future, and he could see we had the love and the skills.

David never forced people to read these Works - it was always by invitation. We also embraced his approach - never to argue or to invite debate, but just to fully enjoy and appreciate the various passages. David would still be part of the team in some way, and he knew that all our ideas and energy would be directed towards making the Works available to anyone who welcomed them...and peace, trust and contentment enveloped him.

As the days passed, I had an idea in mind of what I wanted to say, of what should be said, and of the meritorious comments that should be made, but it just never took the right form. However, this changed the day the takeover took place (courtesy of Patrick) from David's home in Ringwood to mine in Glen Iris.

As I sorted through the boxes, I was unprepared for what was to follow - I could see David's thumb print, his stamp, his life's work on so many items. I was now witnessing his humble yet steadfast love through the many booklets and audios. As Stephen once so aptly put it:

*'David Murray has produced around 30 phenomenal booklets, guides, and hundreds of audio recordings of Maria Valtorta. These [compilations] are often hundreds of pages, and based on thousands of hours of intense research and editing. He built the apostolate and the **Maria Valtorta Readers' Group** website [through the help and expertise of Johnny Cantarella], and He traveled the world giving talks. He is the king of sacrifice, sweat and effort in this endeavour.'*

Just as Maria had shown her unconditional love for Jesus, I was now witnessing David's untiring commitment in propagating her Works. David brought so many people to the fold who became passionate Readers. Seeing this all around me was so humbling.

Among the things that David was going to hand over was a black briefcase. I asked him about it. He said that it was his 'Valtortling case' which went everywhere with him on his journeys within Melbourne, interstate and overseas in the last

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23 years. I was so overcome with emotion because I felt he was handing over his very last possession, the shirt off his back - he was giving his heart away. This brought an ocean of tears to my eyes. and when he wasn't there to see me, I wept.

This was one thing I was never going to take under any circumstance. He was still going to keep that briefcase for his column, **David's Journey Continues...**...informing us of his Valtortling days in the future.

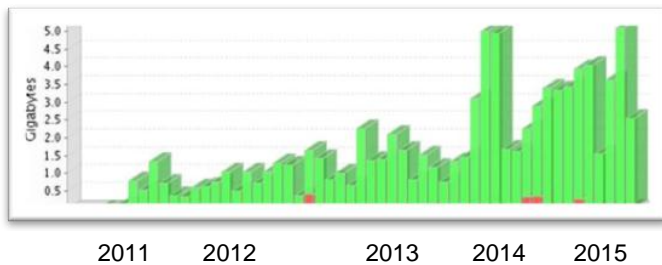
So David, I am not just paying tribute to you, because that is not enough. Nor will I just salute you, because that is not enough either. Instead, together with all the Readers and all your friends around the world, we want to give you the standing ovation you deserve. Encore! Encore!

Thank you, David, and may God continue to bless you,
Catherine Loft

David's Journey Continues...

Dear Readers,

After a very successful management transfer to Catherine early in April, I am fit, well and happy to be fading into the background, confident that the Readers are in very good hands. I'm most excited that a new and positive chapter in this electronic age has begun, especially helped by the efforts of our I.T. consultant member Johnny Cantarella from Brisbane, and for the past year by the skills of our colleague Stephen Austin from the U.S. This is evidenced by looking at the Group's website chart of site visits during the past four+ years:



[Here are a couple of passages that I have revisited.]

Receiving Jesus' Heart

(Jesus says:)

'...The Eucharist is the Heart of God, it is My Heart. I gave you My Heart at the Last Supper; I always give it to you, provided you want it...

When in a woman's womb a child is formed, what is formed first of all? The heart. So it is with the life of the spirit. You will not give the Christ unless you form His Heart in yourselves by loving the Eucharist - which is Life and true Life. By loving as My Mother loved Me, just conceived.

Oh, what caresses She gave, through Her virgin flesh, for Me, formless and tiny, Who quivered in Her, with My little embryonic Heart! Oh, what pulsations, through the dark recesses of the organism, I communicated to Her Heart, from the depths of that living Tabernacle where I took shape to be born and die for you...

I communicate the same pulsations to your hearts when you receive Me. Your carnal and intellectual heaviness does not let you perceive them, but I give them to you. Open yourself entirely to receive Me... (Notebooks 1943, p. 55)

(Jesus continues:)

'My Heart is a living Eucharist. Where does love start from? From the heart. What is the Eucharist? It is love. When you think then of the Eucharist, you can say to yourselves, "This is the Heart of Jesus' Heart"...' (Notebooks 1944, p. 356)

Nowadays when I receive Communion and I am treasuring Jesus' Heart under my tongue, I am reminded of the following passage from Jesus' commentary on His Agony in the Garden.

'...I was nothing but the Man. And I was nothing but a man no longer helped by God (Phil. 2:6-8). When God helps you, it is easy to lift even the world and hold it up like a child's toy. But when God does not help us any more, even the weight of a flower is a burden to us.

I defeated despair and Satan, its creator, in order to serve God and you, by giving you Life. But I became acquainted with Death. Not with the physical death of crucifixion - that was not so dreadful - but with the total conscious Death of the fighter who falls after triumphing, with a broken heart and blood pouring out of him, in the trauma of an effort exceeding all endurance. And I sweated blood. I sweated blood to be faithful to God's will. (Lk. 22:44)

That is why the angel of My sorrow showed Me the hopes of all those who have been saved through My sacrifice, as a medicine for My dying. (Lk. 22:43)

Your names! Each name was a drop of medicine instilled into My veins to invigorate them and make them function, each of them was for Me, life coming back, light coming back, strength coming back. During the cruel tortures - to avoid shouting My grief of Man, and in order not to despair of God and say that He was too severe and unjust to His Victim - I repeated your names to Myself, I saw you. Since then I blessed you. Since then I have carried you in My heart. And when the time came for you to be on the Earth, I leaned out of Heaven to accompany your coming, rejoicing at the thought that a fresh flower of love was born in the world and would have lived for Me.

Oh! My blessed ones! The comfort of the dying Christ! My Mother, the Disciple, the pious Women were present at My death, and you were there as well. My dying eyes saw, with the tormented face of My Mother, also your loving ones. And they closed, happy to be closed because they had saved you, who deserve the Sacrifice of a God.'

(The Poem, Vol. 5, pp. 543-4; The Gospel, Vol. 10, pp. 40-1)

God bless,

David Murray (david@valtorta.org.au)

Catherine's Classroom

Dear Readers

Having read passages from the bible in preparation for Easter, I thought it a good idea to tell the class about the relics that came from this Sacrifice; namely, the Cross, Veronica's Veil and the Shroud of Turin because I wanted them to know something really and truly marvellous. I showed them a couple of YouTube clips, then they researched them on their IT devices. They found the information fascinating, and showed a genuine interest in such significant relics. But they also came across arguments which questioned their authenticity. Does the Church have the true relics? After all, they had been lost, damaged, repaired, found and moved from one place to another. And what did science have to say about them?

I suppose that at this age they really wanted to believe, but as the youth of today trust less in the faith and more in science, I could understand where they were coming from. It was because of this that I read them a passage from **The Passion** booklet where Jesus explains the medical reasons behind the impression on the shroud. They found this remarkable. Then I read snippets on the Veil of Veronica. But I ended with what Jesus says *'... you do not know how to believe anymore with the simplicity of children, but have need of scientific proofs - ...the prop and prod of science...'*

(The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus pp. 48-50)

We then attempted to flesh out why this was happening in their generation. To sum it up, education had changed from their parents' days. They were no longer learning by rote. In its place in the last 15 years, students were being taught how to question facts or a person's opinion, and analyse

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the many techniques used to substantiate them. And, in turn, they were taught how to form and present a persuasive opinion, and validate it with evidence.

There was certainly a place for science in authenticating these relics, but when it comes to faith, we are not born with it – it is a gift for which we have to pray and which is nurtured with the sacraments. And people today are just not receiving the sacraments regularly any more for whatever reason.

The class was truly hungry for and fascinated by the knowledge presented in the lesson, which I knew would be the talk at the dinner table that night. However, I felt a little sad. I try to be the one to plant a seed in each lesson, but this time, the class planted the seed too - I knew I still had a lot of work to do with them because I taught them how to research and satisfy their knowledge about the wonders of the faith, but I now know that I have yet to motivate them to nurture it with the sacraments on a regular basis. In any case, seeds have been planted.

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

A Reader's Choice

Dear Readers,

I found this little treasured paragraph and marked it because I remember my Nanna telling me that the only Bible quote she could ever remember was: 'Jesus wept.'

How I would have loved to have shared this passage with her - this small, comical scene where Jesus laughs, not for any other reason but to enjoy the moment, and being with His friends. Jesus seems relaxed and happy. Oh! How I wish I could have seen Jesus laugh more often in these writings.

(ROSEMARIE LENNOX, Dandenong North, Victoria)

5th March 1945

It is such an awful day that there is not even one pilgrim. It is raining in torrents and the threshing floor is a pool on which dry leaves are floating. I wonder where all the leaves have come from, some have been blown by the wind, which howls and shakes doors and windows. The kitchen, which is gloomier than ever, because to keep the rain out it is necessary to close the door, is full of smoke, which the wind blows back down the chimney and causes the disciples to cough and their eyes to water.

'Solomon was right' states Peter. 'Three things drive a man out of his house: a quarrelsome wife...and I left mine at Capernaum to quarrel with her brothers-in-law, a smoky fireplace and a leaky roof. We have the last two things. But I will see to this chimney tomorrow. I will go up on the roof and you, James, John and Andrew, will come with me. We will raise the chimney and cover its top with slates.'

'And where are you going to find the slates?' asks Thomas.

'We will take them off the shed. If it rains there, it will not be a disaster. But in here...Are you sorry that your dishes will no longer be decorated with sooty drops?'

'Most certainly not! I wish you could do that! See what a sight I am. It rains on my head when I am here near the fire.'

'You look like an Egyptian monster.' says John laughing.

Thomas, in fact, has queer black smutty commas on his chubby good-natured face. Always merry as he is, he is the first to laugh and also Jesus laughs, because, just when he is speaking, another sooty drop falls on his nose, blackening its point...'

(*The Poem*, Vol 1, Chapter 124, pp. 671-2 / *The Gospel*, Vol 2, Chapter 124, pp.319-320)

(If you would like to contribute to this new Readers' column, please send me the reference (not too long please) (catherine@valtorta.org.au) and explain in 80 words or less why the chosen passage is so meaningful to you. -Ed)

Stephen's Update

Dear Readers,

The Summa: The May 2015 edition of *the Summa and Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work* has just been released with an entirely new and important chapter entitled 'An Analysis and Refutation of Other Objections' which addresses several new arguments raised against Maria Valtorta's work. The chapter about the Valtorta Sunday Gospels app was also updated and there is a new link to an excellent new short study on the Shroud of Turin in the light of Valtorta's writings that was sent to me from an Italian Valtorta researcher. You can download the latest e-book from the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group website. This new Shroud and Valtorta study is available for download from:

http://www.bardstown.com/~brchrys/Valtorta_Shroud_Study.pdf

The smart phones and tablet app: There are also several updates regarding the Sunday Gospels Valtorta app for smart phones and tablets. This app has been downloaded by hundreds of people already and has generated a lot of positive feedback. This app has also just recently been officially endorsed and adopted by the Centro Editoriale Valtortiano (CEV), the publisher and worldwide distributor of Maria Valtorta's Works. It is now released internationally with English, Spanish, and Italian language versions, with additional languages to come. (French is the next language currently in preparation). I have confirmation that the iPhone and iPad version of the app will be completed in the very near future.

The Android app: This app has received a software update which has introduced several new features: an improved design and map atlas; the ability to share the Sunday Gospels with a friend; the ability to download all of the parables for offline reading; and lastly, an option to download the Sunday Gospels in advance. Note that during the next phase of the app development, an option will be added so that those who follow the traditional liturgical calendar can have the app display the appropriate Sunday Gospels for this calendar as well. See the latest version of my e-book for more information on this app, for the app download link, and to view the new screenshots of it.

Stephen Austin (stephen@valtorta.org.au)

News & Quarterly Specials

Firstly, after a long spell at fixed prices, unfortunately, the cost of the Major Works have gone up slightly [non culpae -Ed]. Therefore, to keep prices as low as possible to benefit all Readers, we now have one standard price.

Secondly, we wish to inform you that *The Gospel As Revealed to Me* and *Notebooks 1943, 1944 & 1945-50* are now available as e-books from the following Italian Centro Editoriale Valtortiano (CEV) English website.

<http://www.mariavaltorta.com/index.php/eng/>

Thirdly, due to the fact that so many people would like to share the writings with others (some of whom have lost their precious books in the process) the following items are available at 25% off (AUD + postage) this quarter:

- *The Many Meanings of Love* (now \$9.40),
- *Come Holy Spirit* (now \$2.25)
- *ABBA! FATHER!* (now \$2.25)
- *Jesus Teaches How to Evangelise* (\$2.65)
- *For the Love of Mary* (Audio CD) 73 minutes (\$4.15)

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Patrick's Forum

Dear Readers,

Topics per month on the Forum are:

JUNE: Hail Mary - Victim Mother. As the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual Mother, Mary holds a special place for us on our pilgrim journey.

JULY: Spiritual martyrdom - annulment in God. The need to strip one's ego so as to be absorbed in God.

AUGUST: Purgatory. The need to avoid purgatory and to pray for the souls there.

Please join me. <http://mariavaltortabc.forumotion.com/>

Patrick Jee

(For details and step-by-step instructions on how to join this Forum, contact patrick@valtorta.org.au)

FYI

In Maria's writings, Veronica is called **Niche** in the original Italian and translated to **Nike** (pronounced Neek) into English. My understanding for this is that more often than not in English-speaking countries, the first part of a person's name is shortened; that is, Madaleine becomes Maddy, Christine becomes Chris, and Alexandra becomes Alex or Lexie. But in Italy, the shortening of names sometimes happens at the other end. **Isabella** becomes Bella, Margarita becomes Rita, **Alessandra** becomes Sandra, and **Veronica** becomes Nica or Niche (as in **Veronique**). So she is referred to as Nike throughout, but when Jesus refers to the Veil he uses her full name - Veronica's veil. (The **Passion** booklet p.50)

New MVRG Endeavours

Dear Readers,

Can you help?

The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group is interested in pursuing new endeavours to enhance and expand the activities and outreach of Maria's Works. However, to begin this, we need assistance from MV Readers who have particular skills in **video editing/design experience** for online professional-looking videos, which will showcase excerpts from Maria Valtorta's writings according to various themes.

Secondly, Stephen is in frequent communication with Valtorta researchers in Italy who often share documents with him that need to be translated. While I am able to translate many of them, there are times when we need more hands on deck. If anybody is able to assist with this occasionally, please let us know as it would be greatly appreciated.

We also want to update the MVRG website and improve it. If you have **website-design experience** or know of anyone who would be interested in any of these projects, please contact stephen@valtorta.org.au

Letters

(From Australia unless stated otherwise)

A huge THANK YOU for all the high-quality work done for so many years. So many of us are reaping the benefits... I'm very blessed to be working to promote Valtorta. Among other things we will be again offering a Triduum retreat that focuses on living the liturgies and reading Valtorta's writings on the Triduum.

FATHER MOSES OF JESUS, San Antonio, TX, USA

...Thank you for the constant re-awakening in us a love of Maria's precious books, which have transformed our lives. What a debt we owe to Maria for being Jesus' secretary all these years, amidst immense suffering....

PETER & LYNNE PODGORSZYK, Alstonville, NSW

I live in Denmark, and the Catholic Church is a very small minority here. I am so pleased that I can be in touch with the other Catholics and particularly those who love reading Maria Valtorta in other parts of the world.

THERESA VINTHER, Taastrup, Denmark

Please keep me on your list, your team gives me spiritual food I can live on, to then pass on to others to live on. You are in our prayers every time I dive in the spiritual world of Maria Valtorta - basically every day. No words can express the quality and the beauty of the spiritual food she left us on behalf of Jesus, how Jesus loved us with His "Enriched Gospel" and her spiritual other books, specially your audio readings, and your bulletin. I would say they are as precious as the Holy Shroud to teach us His love. In union of prayer and ministry: "Ubi Caritas, ibi Deus": "Where there is loving charity, you will find God".

FATHER JOHN-MARIE BREault, Regina AN, Canada.

... I am very happy to share the good news. I am going to make my simple vow here in the Benedictine Abbey of Monastery of Christ in the Desert, New Mexico, U.S.A. a English province of Subiaco Cassinese Congregation.

I believe that I go to offer myself to God as Bl. Maria Valtorta did as a victim for the whole world. I had been in The Apostles of Mary founded by +Fr. Antony Xavier who published Maria Valtorta Books in Tamil. Please remember me in your prayers, and I will offer many prayers for all your members!

BRO. DOMINIC PAULRAJ, Abiquiu NM, USA

...In all these years, since I was introduced to our beloved Jesus' words through Maria Valtorta, I have not been able to go a day without reading them. "What strength His Divine Words give me... I cannot find the human words to express my thanks to Him..."

JANICE CORDEAUX, Monarto South, S.A.

...I hold on to my five volumes of *The Poem* with pride, so I was pleased to read that they are now a collector's item. I also still hold dear the booklet "Praying The Rosary", and use it every single time I pray the rosary. So I tend to carry it around everywhere with me; it's a constant companion...

CARMEL TAMMA, Homebush, NSW.

And finally...A lady informed me that she was given a Maria Valtorta Readers' Group leaflet by a friend. She phoned to tell me that although she had read *The Passion* booklet, she was not a member and wanted to know how to become one. I informed her that anyone who **reads** any of Maria Valtorta's works is part of the Maria Valtorta **Readers' Group**...hence David's carefully worded name.

It is interesting how so many people first met Maria Valtorta through *The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ* booklet. It has been so uplifting to read the how and when of your first encounter with Maria through your letters over the years. Please keep sharing.

Thank you and may God bless you and all yours.
The Maria Valtorta Team.

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is a 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 3 months. A subscription of \$12.00 per year is requested (a little extra if mailed overseas, and 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 writings of Maria Valtorta are considered by many to be among the most wonderful gifts given by Jesus to His followers and would-be followers in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The Readers' Group has much material available which supports their authenticity as Private Revelation. If you receive just a fraction of the knowledge, understanding and inspiration from Maria's revelations on the lives of Jesus and Mary, as testified by our readers, you will be very blessed. May God inspire us all on our journey to holiness.

[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.]