



MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No. 105 - MARCH 2022

'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



PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

Alleluia! Glory be to You, Master and God, who save us with your pain and give us Love as the way of salvation! (*Notebooks 1943*, p.22)

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 worldwide,

Bulletin: So many people responded so positively to the special #104 Maria Valtorta 60th Anniversary Readers' edition of the Bulletin and Supplement. Our Bulletins always have a **Letters** and a **Readers' Choice** column, so there is always an opportunity to share the warmth of your experiences with others. It will also be the last entry in the **David's Journey Continues** column.

Supplement: This 8-page edition consists of three parts: One - a Maria Valtorta passage. Two - the numerous emails of condolences received worldwide. (These are being listed so that you, as a MV Reader, will see the number of kindred spirits in our Maria Valtorta Readers' Group community worldwide.) Three - the MV eulogy for those who could not watch or attend the funeral.

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

DAVID'S JOURNEY CONTINUES ...

[Ed: Sadly for us, this will be David's last entry for this column on his earthly journey, where he also fulfilled Maria Valtorta's Mission listed above. And what a beautiful and uplifting topic to end this journey.

ANOTHER SIDE OF JESUS

Some years ago, a priest friend of mine asked if I knew of any passages from Maria Valtorta's writings about Jesus laughing. And here are just three.

(During Her visit to Her cousin Elizabeth before Jesus' birth, Mary is asked by Elizabeth what will Jesus be like. And in Mary's reply She says:) '...His voice when He laughs will be like the merry cooing of a happy little dove which is full and content in its cosy little nest...'

(*Poem, Vol. 1, p. 107; Gospel, Vol. 1, p. 132*)

(At a later time, when Joseph and Mary have fled to Egypt with Baby Jesus to escape the threat from King Herod. Mary is waking her little Baby...)

(Maria says:)...Mary bends down and kisses His cheek. Jesus wakes up completely. He opens His eyes, sees His Mother and smiles and stretches His little hands towards Her breast.

'Yes, love of Your Mummy. Yes, Your milk. Before the usual time... But You are always ready to suck Your Mummy's breast, My little holy Lamb!'

Jesus laughs and plays, kicking His little feet out of the blankets, moving His arms happily in a typical childish style, so beautiful to see. He pushes His feet against His Mummy's stomach... He looks at Her, surprised to see Her crying. He stretches one little hand towards the shiny traces of tears and it gets wet while patting Her face. And, very gracefully, He leans once again on His Mother's breast, He clings to it and pats it with His hand... She nurses Him and Jesus avidly sucks His Mother's good milk, and when He feels that only a little is coming from Her right breast, He looks for the left one, laughing while doing so and looking up at His Mother...

(*Poem, Vol. 1, pp. 181-2; Gospel, Vol. 1, p. 219*)

(We now move to the adult Jesus, during the second year of His public life with His apostles. Maria Valtorta is commenting on some of Jesus' characteristics which she has witnessed...)

(Maria says:)...Jesus is never a jolly fellow or a complainer, laughing coarsely or looking hypochondriac, not even in the moments of greatest delight or deepest depression. His smile is inimitable. No painter will ever be able to reproduce it. It is like a light emanating from His heart, a bright light in the hours of greatest joy because a soul has been redeemed or approaches perfection...

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Phone: (03) 9885 9710 E-mail: catherine@valtorta.org.au Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>

[While I have] never seen Him indulge in immoderate merriment, He is not averse to a hearty laugh when the case demands it. [Then] He immediately resumes His noble serenity. But when He laughs, He prodigiously looks younger, to the extent of looking like a twenty-year-old man. And the world seems to blossom through His lovely, hearty, loud and melodious laughter...

(*Poem*, Vol. 2, p. 551; *Gospel*, Vol. 3, p. 103)

(Ed: We hope that in between singing with the celestial choir, David will also experience the merriment and laughter of Jesus.)

IN DEFENCE OF MARIA VALTORTA

- **Maria Valtorta's visions are the only Private Revelations to attain a Papal Order to Publish**, and this fact was historically documented.

- **The Head of the Holy Office took offence at being circumnavigated in the Church-approval process.** From the Vatican, Cardinal Edouard Gagnon wrote that Pope Pius XII's action was: 'The **official Imprimatur** granted before witnesses by the Holy Father in 1948. An "Official Imprimatur" of the Supreme Authority of the Church under the Code of Canon Law, gives the Pope **full and supreme power over all levels of the Church** and free use to exercise this power. The Papal order came first and **Canon law prohibits this Papal order from being reversed by subordinate levels of Church authority.** Canon law clearly requires that this Papal order be embraced with unconditional acceptance and submission.'

- Maria Valtorta's writings received Imprimaturs from Bishop Bonicilli and Archbishop Soosa Pakian of Trimandrum. In addition, a Nihil Obstat was given by Msgr. Luigi Lovazzano (Vicar-General). **If the Vatican thought these Imprimaturs were in error, it would have requested them to be removed. However, the Vatican has let these Imprimaturs stand.**

-The Holy Pontiff was well aware of Father Gabriel Allegra's resolute dedication to publishing articles advocating the *Poem*. **Many argue that this beatification was an indirect Papal endorsement of Maria Valtorta's writings by Pope John Paul II.**

IMAGE OF OUR LADY FROM MARIA VALTORTA'S WORK

In 1996, **Mother Teresa was gifted by artist, Susan Conroy, with a drawing of Our Blessed Mother Mary, which was inspired by the writings of Maria Valtorta.** Susan Conroy says: 'I drew this image for Mother Teresa in 1996. It is a drawing of Our Blessed Mother Mary holding the Sacred Host within her Immaculate Heart. Within the Host appears Her Divine Child, Jesus. The whole idea for

this drawing (and the caption underneath it) came from a book titled: ***The Virgin Mary in the Writings of Maria Valtorta***, by Fr. Gabriel M. Roschini, O.S.M. That book relates that Our Lady appeared to Maria, an Italian mystic, and said: "I would like someone to draw a picture of Me as I appear to you now. My Immaculate Heart should shine with heavenly light and contain the Most Blessed Host, in which the Divine Child is to be pictured. Underneath, put the inscription: "*From Mary's Virginal Blood and Heart, the Supreme Gift of Love: the Eucharistic Jesus.*" Mother Teresa wrote to me just weeks before she died and assured me: "I did receive your picture. It is still hanging on my wall."

View Susan Conroy's image of *Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament* and a photo with Mother Teresa at <https://www.susanconroy.com/artwork.shtml>

(Ed: *Fr. Roschini quotes Our Lady's request to Maria from the *Quadernetti* pp. 212-3 on the Feast of Corpus Christi, which is Maria Valtorta's only writings not yet translated into English.)

FROM THE MV FOUNDATION IN ITALY

1. The Maria Valtorta Readers' Group Bulletin # 102, contained an article written by Dr. Emilio Pisani in the *Bollettino Valtortiano* on Andrea Bocelli called **VALTORTA-BOCELLI: A CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP.** Since that time, Andrea Bocelli released a video Statement for the '*Tribute to Maria Valtorta on the Sixtieth Anniversary of her Death*' Conference that took place on 9 October, 2021. Andrea Bocelli has continued to promote Maria Valtorta's works through this very effective 5-minute video. Make sure to press the CC captions tab for the English subtitles. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH4IC_ktcIU

2. In the *Stilografica Onlus* Nov-2021, Fr Ernesto Zucchini announced a new event: Valtortian Spiritual Exercises.

For five years, the *Maria Valtorta Onlus Foundation* has been organizing the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, but for years before that, they had already been thinking about how to organise a course of Valtortian Spiritual Exercises, merging them on a practical level – but without confusing them. It is easy to see, in fact, that the meditative and contemplative techniques that Saint Ignatius uses are put into practice in detail throughout the work of Maria Valtorta. Prof. Léo A. Brodeur showed the closeness and similarities between Loyola and Valtorta. The first attempt of Valtortian Spiritual Exercises took place between 27 September and 2 October 2021. The structure was identical to the Ignatian one: five full days of constant prayer in

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various forms: Daily Mass, Community Rosary, guided contemplations, silence and readings. However, the content was different: that is, all the texts were Valtortian. The testimonies of the first participants and the spiritual fruits experienced have encouraged Fr. Zucchini & his team to continue with confidence on this path, led by the hand of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Maria Valtorta towards an ever greater knowledge of Jesus, to love Him, follow Him and bring Him to everyone! The dates for a week of "Catholic Vacation" for 2022 are:

Valtortian Spiritual Exercises 1-6 August; Ignatian Spiritual Exercises 22-27 August; & 5-10 September. At this stage, these are all in Italian. For further information, please visit the Maria Valtorta Onlus Foundation site if you are Italian or speak it.

<https://fondazionemariavaltorta.it/fondazione/incontri-spirituali/>

However, we are hoping that Fr. Ernesto Zucchini & his team will soon make them available in English for English-speaking countries.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

The more we read these works, the more passages stand out as issues become more relevant to our times. A devout Reader submitted a passage from the writings of Valtorta, which seems to suggest that in the future, there will be women priests (priestesses).

(Chuzza is asking Jesus about the cure of his wife, Susanna...)

'My Lord. I ask You to grant physical health to my wife and the sanctification of us all. I don't think I can say that anything is too much to have that.'

'You are suffering agonies because of your wife. But if I restored her to health and I got her to become my disciple forever, what would you say?'

'That...You are entitled to do it and that [...] I will imitate Abraham in his readiness to the sacrifice.'

'You are right. Listen everybody: the time of My Sacrifice is approaching. Like a course of water, it is running fast and I, incessantly to the sea. I must accomplish what I have to do. And human hardness precludes so much of the field of My mission. My Mother and Mary of Alphaeus will come with Me when I go away amongst people that don't love Me yet or will never love Me. My wisdom knows that women will be able to help the Master in those precluded fields. I have come to redeem also women and in the future century, in My time, women will be seen serving the Lord and the servants of the Lord as priestesses. (Ed: *my emphasis*). I have chosen My disciples. But to elect women who are not free, I must ask fathers and husbands to do it. Do you agree?'

(Poem, Vol. 2, pp 37-38; Gospel, Vol. 2, pp. 474-5)

To ensure it was accurate, I went back to the original Italian and found that it was not translated correctly in *the Poem of the Man-God* English edition which

does seem to suggest that there will be women priests ('...women will be seen... as priestesses'). However, this ambiguity was corrected in the new publication of ***The Gospel As It Was Revealed To Me*** where it is translated as: '...servants of the Lord like priestesses.' So the word 'like' (meaning 'similar to') is important in clarifying the role of women and the role of the priest that Jesus gave to his apostles - consecrated hands.

In an attempt to find solid factual evidence in Maria's writings for this corrected translation, this same Reader found and submitted another passage that confirms what Jesus meant.

(Jesus is speaking to his disciples and explains the important role of women)

(Jesus says:) 'But in the future, the redeemed woman will not be oppressed as she is now. Prohibitions concerning physical prudence will remain, but obstacles to her coming to the Lord will be removed. I am already removing them to prepare the first female priests of the future era.'

'Oh! Will there be priestesses?!' asks Philip who is almost dumbfounded.

'Do not misunderstand Me. They will not be priestesses like men, they will not consecrate and will not administer the gifts of God, which you are not yet capable of understanding. But they will belong to the sacerdotal class, cooperating in many ways with priests to the benefit of souls.'

'Will they preach?' asks Bartholomew incredulously.

'As My Mother already preaches.'

'Will they make apostolic pilgrimages?' asks Matthew.

'Yes, they will. They will take faith very far, and I must admit it, with greater heroism than men.'

'Will they work miracles?' asks the Iscariot laughing.

'Some will work also miracles. But do not consider miracles the essential thing. They, being holy women, will work many miracles of conversions through their prayers.'

'Bah! Will women pray to the extent of working miracles?' grumbles Nathanael.

'Do not be narrow-minded like a scribe, Bartholomew. What is prayer, according to you?'

'To address God by means of the formulae known to us.'

'That and much more. Prayer is the conversation of the heart with God and it ought to be the habitual state of man. Women, because of their more retired lives than ours and because of their affective faculties that are stronger than ours, are inclined to such conversation with God more than we are. They find comfort to their sorrows in it, relief in their work, which is not only the work in the house and in procreating, but also in tolerating us men. They find what wipes their tears and brings peace and joy to their hearts because *they know* how to speak to God and they will know better in future. Men will be giants in doctrine, women will be those who support men and the world with their prayers because many misfortunes will be avoided through their prayers and many punishments will be withheld. They will thus work miracles, invisible in most cases and known to God only, but not less real.'

(Poem, Vol. 2, pp 677-8; Gospel, Vol. 4, pp. 257-8)

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READER'S CHOICE

In these very disturbing times in our Church and in our world, I am feeling very weak and having trouble feeling at peace. However, after reading this passage from Maria Valtorta's guardian angel, Azariah, I am sensing the presence of Heaven, and the importance and power of prayer.

J. Marshall (Australia)

'Pray, Christians, pray that no more than a third will fall, swept away: by Satan; by his seven accursed heads; by the tenfold infernal weapons; and by his serpentine, diabolical work.

Pray, pray that the organism of the believers, the Church Militant, will remain the 'Rock', and not become mud, lime, mortar or brick.

Raise up around her, the shield of your prayer, for the hour is really tremendous: more tremendous than the hour of darkness in which Christ was immolated...

In this hour, long and ever darker, the Satanic world - which is rising up against you Christians, against the Church - is faced only by men... [by] mortal human nature which (without the aid of God) succumbs. And the more it is already infected and softened by the fumes of the world and the science of the world, the more it succumbs.

Pray, indicating to the Father the mystical Head of the Church, so that out of respect for the Face of his Christ, the Most High will intervene to impede the affronts He already suffered on Good Friday...

And pray with merit, pray as just men - that is, as Blessed Paul says, "[those who] walk according to the spirit," not satisfying the desires of the flesh.'

The Book of Azariah (1993) pp.221-2 – (2007) pp.230-1)

I QUADERNETTI

Jesus Says No More Dictations

On Paul's And The Other Apostolic Letters

Since the publication of the first (Italian) edition of Maria's 'Work', there has been so much controversy within the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of Maria's writings. Due to this continued obstruction, the final passage in this section reveals that Jesus decided to **cease dictations** on the Epistles of Paul and other apostolic letters in the New Testament...

(Jesus says:) 'My Divine Mercy has given the Work [*The Poem of the Man-God; The Gospel as Revealed to Me*] out of mercy for infinite souls, lost or on the way to being lost - both lay and even consecrated souls - so that they would again have eternal Salvation. The Work was the practical application of the spiritual works of mercy, which I have taught: "Instruct the ignorant, convert sinners..."

Those who have blocked it for years, unjustly and without a true reason - rather only for a blameworthy reason - have not understood its end, its aim, or the power of My Gift. They have profoundly wounded My Heart and made themselves responsible for the spiritual death of so many souls, and for a great lack of charity and justice toward you, Maria... And since it is five years now that I have been wounded

unceasingly with unjust actions toward the Work, **I have halted the flow of Divine Wisdom** which I wanted to pour again into you, [Maria] - My cistern of love and of grace for souls - by giving you the explanations of the Apocalypse, of the other Pauline Epistles, and of those of Peter, James and Jude of Alpheus. All the apostolic letters...'

(Quadernetti, 17 May, 1953, pp. 206-7 in Italian)

or "Christ Speaks on 'The Work'" Translated by the Sitemaster at

<http://www.bardstown.com/~brchrys/TheWork.html>

LETTERS

In 2001, I was living in Orewa, a seaside suburb of Auckland, NZ. Having recently returned from ashram [a spiritual hermitage where I was living] in India, I spent time in the parish church in meditation. The sacristan noticed this, approached me, and offered me Volume 5 of *The Poem of the Man God*, saying "You might like this", and lent it to me. I loved it. Returning to India, I wondered how I could manage without it. Soon after my return, Dr Karla approached me with Volume 5, saying "You might like [to borrow] this." She was a wonderful Irish ashramite. When she returned to Ireland, I regretted not having the book. Not long after, we hosted a group of seminarians from Kerala. One day, one of them handed me a book covered in black paper. "You might like this" he said, and so I had a few more days with Maria. Dr Karla later gave me her well-annotated copy of Volume 5. When I returned permanently to Auckland, NZ in 2004, I set about finding and reading all the copies. Later I shared them with others but now I keep Dr Karla's original gift. Of course, it is old and well worn, but my current Provincial has asked that it be bequeathed to her, so I am happy about that.

A Religious Sister, New Zealand

† REST IN PEACE †

DAVID BEALE

Husband of Jacki, both of whom are devout
Maria Valtorta Readers

DAVID D. MURRAY

Founder & Convener of the
Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

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. Newsletters are sent every three months. A subscription of \$10.00 per year is requested for hardcopies within Australia (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.]