



MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No.110 – JUNE 2023

'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)

'Publish this work as it is... whoever reads it will understand...'
– Pope Pius XII



PRAYING WITH MARIA VALTORTA

"O my God, I offer myself for the coming of your Kingdom, for the return of your peace, for the redemption of the souls of the people that I know and love, [...] and also for the redemption of the souls of the persons that I don't know or who are hostile to me."

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p. 50)

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,

Supplement; In these troubled and confusing times, I was inspired by a Reader to look at the theme of *ORDER & DISORDER*. I hope that after reading these passages, people can sense that although they cannot restore order in the world, they can restore order in their own individual life, and pray that the combined effort of Readers worldwide will have some impact, albeit small, which is pleasing and worthy in the eyes of God.

Regarding the **Bulletin**, I often get people enquiring about Maria Valtorta's Work in other languages. I hope the article presented is informative and interesting.

Growing in faith,

Catherine Loft (catherine@valtorta.org.au)

A REPORT ON THE MV READERS' GROUP WEBSITE

Stephen Austin is the MVRG webmaster. He is so committed to this website and particularly its content, that he is always looking for ways to add material in order to update regular visitors and to reach out to more visitors. Team member Johnny Cantarella has given us the latest statistics on the number of people who have visited our Readers' Group site between 2022-2023.

In this period, our site went from an average number of 1166 unique visitors to our website to 1473 unique visitors (a 26% increase). The number of pages viewed per month went from 5492 to 5769 (5% increase). This is very good web traffic considering how much this keeps improving with new information and updates. This number of visits

consists of unique visitors and regular monthly visitors, indicating their continued interest in the content. Visits from 73 countries shows very good international exposure too. People are downloading: *The Summa & Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work*; samples of Valtorta's Writings; the Catalogue; the various refutation articles and responses; audios- the MP3 rosary and Maria Valtorta expansion of the weekly canonical Sunday Gospel Mass readings; and the Bulletins & Supplements. The attraction to and benefit of our website is its comprehensiveness to which we continuously update.

BROWSING THE SUMMA – THE CHURCH'S POSITION

This is latest and currently judicially binding position of the Church represented by the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith's decision. In a letter addressed to Dr. Emilio Pisani dated 6 May 1992, Bishop Dionigi Tettamanzi gave permission for the Work to continue to be published without any needed modifications to the text for the "true good of readers and in the spirit of genuine service to the faith of the Church." So regardless of the reason that the Work was placed on the *Index of Forbidden Books* in 1960 after 12 years of having been given Papal approval and published, this was effectively nullified. Therefore, her writings cannot be considered condemned or forbidden for contemporary Catholics. This action and permission also implicitly acknowledges that the Work is free from error in faith and morals and may be safely read by the faithful. (*The Summa and Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work* by Stephen Austin, p.108ff.)

[Ed: If anyone ever expresses an interest in or a criticism of Maria Valtorta's Work, save yourself the stress and refer them to our extensive website or quote Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Read it. Just read it." This is the best response because as Pope Pius XII put it: "Whoever reads it will understand."]

A REFLECTION WITH FATHER ERNESTO ZUCCHINI

Paradise/ Heaven

In the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the fifth glorious mystery asks us to contemplate Paradise: "The coronation of Mary, most holy Queen of Heaven and earth and the glory of the angels and saints". In *Notebooks 1944*, Maria Valtorta tries to describe Paradise three times: 10 January, 25 May and 1 November. She describes the first two in some detail while the third time, she sees it globally

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with her mother, Iside who is about to enter it. Nobody is surprised at the information that our writer uses in these descriptions because this is the only way that makes it comprehensible for us. It is not a question of a physical reality of Heaven, but that of an "analogical" relationship between the actual one and the one described. In this way, any misunderstanding in what Maria Valtorta "paints" while writing is avoided. I wonder if showing Heaven to Maria Valtorta was a consolation for her - who had just finished experiencing the dark night of the soul from 9 April - 12 May; or a simple intellectual curiosity; or a tool to nourish the necessary hope in her who had to totally persevere in this painful writing. I opt for all three. But there is also a fourth possibility: what is needed by us "implicit" readers and viewers (in the sense that we are not present, but we consider ourselves as such). Paradise, which is really understood as the ultimate goal of our life, as our eternal homeland, and as our consolation, is not secondary or superfluous. It is important to be aware that Paradise is part of the Catholic faith, guaranteed by the rationality of the miracles of science present in the Gospel, and that Maria Valtorta contemplates and faithfully retransmits this to us. Each of us needs to nourish hope in Eternal Life and, in that Paradise where every tear will be dried and where death, with what precedes it, will be annihilated. [...] Heaven is one of these truths, and perhaps the most beautiful [...].

Jesus promised us that in Paradise, we will be "like angels in heaven" (Mt. 22:30). In this entry, Maria Valtorta adds a few more "colours". It begins with God the continuous creator of souls: "Oh, how lovely, shining, and sparkling are the spirits God creates at every instant to be souls for new creatures!"

Then she "sees" a poor - but similarly true - image of God, which is always infinitely superior to this description: "He shone forth on high, on high and alone, set in the immaculate and most radiant sapphire of the Empyrean. And from Him, the Light descended in unending waves. The Light which penetrated the rose of the blessed and the angelic choirs, and rendered it luminous with its light, which is nothing but the product of the light of the Love penetrating it. But I did not distinguish saints or angels. I only saw the immeasurable festoons of the circles of the celestial flower."

Many questions arise spontaneously but everyone must ask and pray to taste and receive spiritual lights.

"And I saw God the Father: Radiance in the radiance of Paradise. Lines of most radiant light, extremely white, incandescent [...]. Oh, how one sees that it is spirit! It is Everything. So perfect. Not even the touch of any other spirit in Paradise could touch God. A most perfect Spirit, even in His immateriality. Light, Light, nothing but Light [...]. There were angels, higher than the blessed, circles around the Hub of Heaven that is the Triune God, with the virginal Gem of Mary as its heart. They more vividly resemble God the Father. Perfect and eternal spirits, they are outlines of light, inferior only to that of God the Father, with an indescribable form of beauty. They adore... They send forth harmonies [...]. They shine like motionless waters struck by the bright sun. But their love is a song."

Therefore He is not an Eternal God - alone and isolated, but a Love that gives himself and makes all creatures who want Him share in this Love without measure: first of all, the angels. Then Maria Valtorta continues to write and tell us: "It is here that I understand what Paradise is. And

what its Beauty, Nature, Light and Song are made of. It is made by Love. Paradise is Love. It is Love that creates everything therein. Love is the foundation on which everything rests. Love is the apex from which everything comes. The Father works out of Love. The Son judges out of Love. Mary lives by Love. The angels sing out of Love. The Light exists because it is Love. The Song exists because it is Love. Life exists because it is Love. Oh, Love, Love, Love...! I annul myself in You. I rise again in You. I die as a human creature because You consume me. I am born as a spiritual creature because You create me".

THE VALTORTIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT

True to his word, the Valtortian Spiritual Exercises Retreat will be held at the Convent of San Cerbone (Lucca, Italy) from 31 July - 5 August 2023. This will be conducted in **Italian** so if you wish to attend, bookings are open: email esercizi@fondazionemariavaltorta.it or on 327 2024858 (to phone, sms and Whatsapp). Places are limited so whoever is interested or wishes to make a provisional booking, please make contact as soon as possible.

Fr. Zucchini & the Maria Valtorta Onlus Foundation

MARIA'S WORK IN 30 LANGUAGES EXPLAINED

In an interview in his *Memorie and Testimonianze* series, Dr. Emilio Pisani and his team explain how Maria's Work came to be published in many languages. As it does not have subtitles, I have translated and paraphrased it for your convenience.

Dr. Emilio Pisani from the CEV (Centro Editoriale Valtortiano publishing house) points out that while Valtorta's Work has been translated into 30 languages, in many cases, they are not the complete writings even though for many, it is still a work in progress. He points out that for the most part, they never looked for translators - translators approached them of their own volition from whom the CEV selected people who they commissioned because reliable people have to be chosen. In certain circumstances, the CEV gave people permission to translate the Work and publish it in their own country. The only condition was that it be translated from the original Italian and the CEV be given the rights in order to protect the Work.

Fr. Gabriele Allegra (a Franciscan Friar living and working in China) held the Work in such high esteem that he did a presentation as a means of inspiring translators of other nations to take on the task. He first suggested it to his colleague, a Spanish Franciscan priest, Fr. Escobar who was a bit hasty in his translation into **Spanish** which resulted in several errors. He started it in 1976, it took him five years, and it was published in 1981. Years later, they commissioned a missionary priest, Fr. Alberto Giralda from Northern Spain. He was very careful and very accurate, during which he found that these five volumes in Spanish were very thick so they were subdivided into 11 volumes. [Ed: This was an important translation because there are nine countries that speak Spanish and 13 more that speak a Spanish dialect]. Only the *Gospel* has been translated in Portuguese and as this was also done in a hurry, the CEV is currently revising this translation.

In 1977, the CEV was approached by Felix Sauvage (1891-1978) who wanted to do the **French** translation. He first became acquainted with the Work when he was in Italy and began to translate it, keeping close contact with Dr. Pisani while doing so. Sauvage offered his services for

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free. He died a short time later. The new French translation was done by Yves D'Horrer. He wanted a different title, *L'évangile tel qu'il m'a été révélé* (*The Gospel As Revealed To Me*) which later became the title for all languages. Yves D'Horrer also translated *Notebooks 1944 & Notebooks 1945-50* as *Notebooks 1943* had already been done in Canada. The French translations are complete with just the *Little Notebooks* almost ready to publish.

In the 1980s came the **English** translation defined as the best of all. Professor Nicandro Piccozzi, a teacher, was born and raised in Scotland then came to Italy. He not only offered to translate the Work but he did not even want to be paid. He was financially comfortable and had retired in Italy on a small farm with his wife. [Ed: Another break-through with 24 countries that speak English and many more teaching it as a second language].

The **German** translation of the *Gospel* was done in collaboration with someone from Switzerland. In addition to this are: *Notebooks 1943, 1944, 1945-50* and the *Little Notebooks, Our Lady in the writings of Maria Valtorta* (by Fr. Roschini) and *Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, the Valtorta Enigma* (by Jean-François Lavère) and the *Autobiography* of Maria Valtorta.

Some time later, the Asian nations were translating the Work and arranging their own publication. These were primarily done by priests and missionaries who sacrificed so much to do them. In **Korea**, the work was translated and published for which they were given permission with the CEV only requesting the rights. This was also the case with the translations in **Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese** and in two **Indian** dialects: **Malayalam** and **Tamil**. The Chinese edition was done by a missionary from Naples (Italy), Fr. Cozzolino, who was living in Taiwan. With the help of a Chinese couple, the missionary checked it against the Italian version. The Work came out in **Japanese** too because Fr. Allegra had a colleague there. However, these started as excerpts and not the complete volumes. There was a man who worked in a publishing house and he loved the writings of Don Bosco and Maria Valtorta so much that he resigned from that company and started his own publishing house so he could publish their work which he is still doing.

It must be pointed out that the CEV tries to do quality control. However, it is agreed that sometimes it better to have a translation, albeit not always perfect, so that people have the ability of becoming familiar with the writings of Maria Valtorta, than none at all. Furthermore, Asian languages are difficult to check because the CEV doesn't always know people who can speak both Italian and an Asian language. Furthermore, it was also difficult for the CEV to consider publishing these books themselves because Chinese books are formatted differently - they use characters and they read from right to left. Japanese is also different to Italian. Their front cover is our back cover, they read vertically, and read from right to left. This makes it impossible for the CEV to even publish the book because they cannot correct any typesetting errors and the like.

Dr. Pisani has clear memories about the **Russian** edition. He says that he received a fax from an Orthodox publishing house in Russia. They wanted permission to translate the Work so that it would create the opportunity of a dialogue between Catholics and the Orthodox. Dr. Pisani was amazed at this and wondered how Maria

Valtorta's Work even ended up in Russia. "Which little angel took it there? And how did people come to the realisation and understanding that this Work would open up channels for an ecumenical dialogue?" Dr. Pisani thought that it was perhaps due to these writings depicting St. Andrew's life in such a complete way whom the Orthodox follow. Catholics follow St. Peter whose life Maria also depicts. Furthermore, the Work also contrasts the personality of the two brothers - Andrew and Peter. Andrew was humble but he did so many hidden good works. He secretly approached women who were sinners and tried to convert them. And he brought them to Jesus secretly. He was very humble but also very active which may be the reason the Orthodox liked this Work. In Russian, the translation by this man was started with the completion of two volumes, then it was interrupted (it was thought he had been murdered). Then a Russian Orthodox priest, Fr. Alexei Marchenkov learnt Italian so that he could continue the translation from the original Italian. He was murdered on 31 January 2023. So his colleagues published the completed Volumes 9 & 10 of the Work for him.

Fr. Gabriele Allegro was prominent in pursuing the translations because he always hoped that the Work would be published in Russian, Chinese and English in order to win the battle against Satan.

Two volumes of the writings have been translated in **Swahili** with the next volume published by the end of this year. In 2021, a man contacted the CEV from **Rwanda** who had translated *Our Lady from the Writings of Valtorta* but he didn't know how to go about publishing it so the CEV asked for the translation, published it for him and sent him 300 copies.

With regard to the **Romanian** edition, it is hoped by the end of this year, the 10th volume will be released. In 2021, a woman offered to translate it into **Greek**. She had a Franciscan relative in Assisi who offered to revise it for her. A translation is taking place in **Slovenia** but very slowly. There is a **Slovakian** edition being translated by Monsignor Novajkowski. With regard to **Lithuania**, the story has it that a group of Readers who were linked to a priest were doing this translation in secret but had to type it (for security purposes) because the communist regime was still preventing them from spreading these writings. There was a **Hungarian** edition published in the 1990s-2000 which was printed in Italy, and with the help of a Hungarian Reader who noted errors, these will be corrected in the next reprint. The **Croatian** edition of the *Gospel* has been completed. The **Dutch-Flamingo** language still carries the old title at this stage but they have also translated *Notebooks 1943, 1944, 1945-50, the Magdalene, Our Lady in the writings of Maria Valtorta* and *Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*. In **Albania**, a translation has been done by the Apostolic Nunzio of Tirana but this consists of short excerpts. There is a **Polish** version, however the CEV is concerned that this translation was not done from the original Italian (like all the other countries have been required to) but from the German and French translations, so the quality and accuracy are unknown. However, 15 years earlier, they did work with a Polish translator who referred to the original Italian in translating *Notebooks 1943* which the CEV published for them.

The work is also in the **Arab** language, translated by a Lebanese journalist residing in Beirut named Ahmad Ali El

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Zein. This translation was doing quite well in **Egypt** and **Syria** while another Arabic translation was being done in Damascus. It is still unsure whether this translation is still a work in progress.

A member of the CEV team recalled that it was sad that many years ago, a potentially excellent translator was going to translate the writings in **Armenian**. However, it did not go ahead because there was no evidence that there was a demand for it in Armenia in order to recoup the outlay and the costs that the CEV publishing house would incur on their behalf.

In conclusion, there are differences between the translations from the various countries because not all editions were approached in the same way – not everyone was/is a professional translator. Nor were they priests or missionaries. Many were good-hearted and passionate people who just volunteered so the CEV just had to trust the translators. The CEV are also looking for uniformity with the covers: they want all languages to eventually match the Italian cover in order to give the Work a universally recognisable and unique identity. So even if a person cannot understand a language, they will be able to immediately recognise Maria Valtorta's Work.

CLARIFICATION – IS IT THE FIFTH GOSPEL?

Due to our love of Maria Valtorta's Work, people say or imply that these writings are regarded as the 'fifth' gospel. In this selected passage from the newly published *The Little Notebooks*, Jesus makes it quite clear that this is not the case and should never be referred to as such. We can still love the Work but not try to 'add' to or undermine the four gospels of the bible. The purpose of Valtorta's work is to expand the content of the four gospels. As St. John's Gospel says, if everything Jesus had said and done were recorded in the bible, the world would not be able to contain the books. (*Jn 21:25*)

(Jesus says:) «And now we come to the so-called fifth gospel. There are four Gospels. I am explaining them now in order to bring to light others which are lost or downplayed. But I am not creating *another* Gospel. There are four, and four there will remain. Understood in detail or left in their broad outlines, there are four and no more.»

(*The Little Notebooks p. 42*)

LETTERS

Greetings for Easter as we reflect on the Paschal mystery of Christ. We celebrated Easter here in our Parish station where many people came to attend church prayers. I have made good use of the booklet, *'Love me as Eucharist'* and many people appreciated the Homily I preached on Holy Thursday, the theme of which was: "*The Eucharist is the Heart of God.*" Thank you for the transcripts of Lent too. Indeed these a great help for my sermons.

FR. ALBERT KALU, SOLOMON ISLANDS

I would love to purchase some Rosary booklets. My friend (who fell in love with it and is now reading the volumes) wants to give these as a present along with rosary beads to the RCIA candidates who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil this Saturday. I also love giving these Rosary booklets as presents. It's a real hidden treasure!

YVONNE REGO, AUSTRALIA

I am writing to let you know that I have enrolled you and the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group in the Easter Novena

of 900 (nine hundred) Masses to be offered by Capuchin Missionary Priests throughout the Easter Season: for all members, all our intentions and all our loved ones (including the salvation of all our souls). These Masses will begin on Easter Sunday. I pray that God's graces and blessings will be yours in abundance this glorious, holy season – and always. I am so grateful for you and our group. What a powerful excerpt from the *Notebooks 1944* of the Final Resurrection of the dead and time ending in #109! I have shared this with others.

HALINA HLADYSZ, AUSTRALIA

[Ed: What a very generous and thoughtful act. We are all eternally grateful and may God reward you abundantly.]

I am delighted to hear that there are communities reading and sharing their love for Jesus through the *Poem of Man God*. I pray for God's guidance to constantly lead this blessed community according to His Will. As for me, while I did decide to share the recordings through Youtube, I never really thought about joining a community, as I perceived the PoMG project as a deeply personal and spiritual project to begin with. As of now, I am still only half way through the 647 chapters and still have many years ahead of me to finish the recordings, and I strongly feel that I need to keep on this project within a certain private and reclusive zone. During the years of recording chapter by chapter, I have also felt that I ought to keep a closer watch on myself, deeper into my spirit [...]. The replies and comments left by listeners of my channel are cherished and give me encouragement to carry on, however longer it may take [...]. It was heartwarming and amazing to read how people with same interest can get together through Zoom meetings. I guess this is what will happen in heaven where, in Jesus, we will all gather together. This era of internet technology somehow gives us a glimpse of what it might be like to get instantly in touch with those we cherish! I do wish and pray for all the spiritual blessings God intends for [those] involved in your community. May His Will reach your hearts and ripen into fruit!

ZACCHIE SEA, KOREA

[Ed: Here is the link to Zacchie's recordings of Maria Valtorta's Work as many Readers show a preference to listen at times rather than read. We wish Zacchie continued zeal on her journey to complete the audio of the Work. Scroll right down to the bottom - to the start. <https://www.youtube.com/@zacchieseas2047/videos>]

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

REX EVANS

An avid MV Reader & MV Zoom member from NZ

SR. KATHLEEN EVERSTON

who read Valtorta and the newsletters right up until her death at 100 years and three months old.

ANTHONY KELLY

who died on Divine Mercy Sunday after just having completed the requirements of this devotion!

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. [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.]