

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP

BULLETIN No.113 – MARCH 2024

'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 most divine Blood that was shed for us from the veins of the God that became man, descend like a dew of redemption upon the contaminated earth, and on the souls that resemble lepers because of sin.'

(*Maria Valtorta Prayers*, p. 19)

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

SUPPLEMENT: I thought it appropriate during this season of Lent and Easter to acknowledge two people relevant to this period of time - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, the secret apostles, and their noteworthy effort that has come down in history in following and assisting Jesus and Mary. It is six pages instead of four because I couldn't leave out beautiful and meaningful passages. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did putting it together.

BULLETIN: This year has already been filled with many blessings because more and more people are writing articles and books, or partaking in interviews and giving talks on Maria Valtorta and the Work. As there are **FIVE** items being featured, I am passing them on to all of you so that you may also feel the joy. Most of these are being offered **free** on our website and they will certainly be particularly relevant and useful during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. **Please note that all of these publications are subject to copyright.**

NB: As this edition of our electronic newsletter is swimming with links and extra attachments, I invite any hardcopy Valtorta Readers to email me and I will forward it to you, or you can go to our website and download them from our **Quarterly Newsletter Archive:**

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

Growing in Faith

Catherine

1. A FREE E-BOOK by GIOVANNA BUSOLINI

Firstly, a devout reader of Maria Valtorta's Work from Italy, Giovanna Busolini, has written a series of books in Italian, one of which has been translated into English. It is called

The "Sudarium Christi" of Oviedo or the Veil of the Virgin Mary? (154p) This is the second book in her trilogy on the three most important acheiropoieta (miraculous) images on fabric in Christian tradition, based on the "private revelations" to Maria Valtorta. Giovanna has given us permission to place her book for free on our website for the benefit and interest of all Readers. The title of the book raises the question: Is the Sudarium of Oviedo the cloth that covered the face of Jesus at His burial? Or is it the Veil of Mary given to Jesus at the Crucifixion? Here is an excerpt from the Introduction of the book by Stephen Austin:

'Giovanna Busolini's book *The "Sudarium Christi" of Oviedo or the Veil of the Virgin Mary?* is a remarkable book [...]. God has chosen a faithful lay woman to discover the hidden discoveries of this relic rather than a scientist, a learned scholar, or even a cleric. [...] Giovanna's book [...] sheds light on the mystery of this Relic. The evidence [presented] suggests that this is indeed the Veil of the Virgin Mary, and [...] Valtorta's revelations also foretell and show us hidden images in the Veil that the Blessed Virgin Mary herself saw and commented on [...]. It also gives us a history of the origin of this Veil, how it was formed, and to whom it belonged in the days following Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Giovanna's studies make an excellent body of arguments and evidence that the "Sudarium" of Oviedo is indeed the Veil of the Virgin Mary and contains not only the Blood of the Son of God, but **the blood and tears of His Holy Mother**. [...] I encourage anyone [...] to read the research and amazing discoveries of Giovanna Busolini in this study. I believe Giovanna's book will go down in the annals of history as a leading book [on] the sacred relic of the Veil of Oviedo itself.'

This book is available to read or download from our website under the tab **Free E-Books & Maps** or click on this link to go there directly.

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-free-ebooks.html>

2. FREE E- MAPS /ATLAS by DAVID J. WEBSTER

Secondly, the *Atlas Of Palestine As It Was In The Time Of Our Lord* by David J. Webster is now available free on our website. (Located beside all of the *Poem*-edition references, I have added those that correspond to the *Gospel As Revealed to Me* edition for your convenience).

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This **Atlas** will be far more user-friendly now because on the computer, you can zoom in and out, which allows a clearer view of the details given. Here is an excerpt where Stephen Austin compares the **online** maps to those of David Webster's **Atlas**.

'Comparison: The **online** maps are not as detailed or informative as the 20 maps in David Webster's **Atlas**. The **online** maps lines are bulky straight lines, but the **Atlas** has thin lines that actually curve around mountains and other obstacles in the greatest detail to show more precisely where Christ traveled. The advanced dating and location indexes in David Webster's **Atlas** are also absent in the **online** maps. Furthermore, I believe David Webster's dates are more correct, and the **online** maps have a very different dating of Our Lord's life, which my research would indicate is incorrect.

Considering all of this, you would get the most [benefit] by using these **online** maps and David Webster's **Atlas** together. These **online** maps suffice if you just want a general idea or overview of where Christ traveled. However, if you want accuracy and to know His travels with precision, David Webster's **Atlas** is essential.' [For a more detailed comparison, refer to *A Summa & Encyclopedia to Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work* by Stephen Austin pp.1156-7,1170-1]

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Defence/Maria%20Valtorta%20Summa%20&%20Encyclopedia.pdf>

ATTACHMENTS: Compare the samples of both map attachments which cover a similar period in Christ's life (chapters 150-92). The first attachment is the **online** map (5/14) and the second attachment is from David Webster's **Atlas** (6/20) along with related references.

This **Atlas** is available to read or download from our website under the tab **Free E-Books & Maps** or click on this link to go there directly.

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-free-ebooks.html>

3. FREE UPDATED INDEX BY BR. RICHARD CAMPA

Br. Richard Campa CCL has issued a "2nd Edition" of his Index of Gospel Passages, Characters and Towns with two completely new colour maps and an Introduction discussing the "licitness" of THE POEM/GOSPEL.

He says: 'Since my Revision 2023 of last September, I finally decided to tackle a complete redoing of my two original maps, using computer graphics and filling in some missing towns, mountains and regions that I was aware of. [...] I was able to create two completely new colour maps to replace the original hand-drawn maps of my Index, with over 25 new entries including the boundaries of Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Peria, the Decapolis and the Tetrarchy of Philip, as well as the locations of some prominent events in the life of Jesus.

In addition, I added an Introduction to my Index discussing the "licitness" of Maria Valtorta's writings (a topic that unfortunately cannot be avoided when dealing with her revelations), [...]. I also completed my review of the last 35 chapters of Poem, made some final corrections and format changes, and finished Part III [...]. There are no changes to Parts I & II.'

This 39-page Index is available to read or download from our website under the tab **Free E-Books & Maps** or click on this link to go there directly.

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-free-ebooks.html>

4. NEW BOOK BY FRANK REGA

Author Frank Rega OFS, has just released his latest book called - *Maria Valtorta's Amazing Revelations: From her Works on Jesus*.

It consists of thirty-six overviews and sketches based on the revelations received by the mystic Maria Valtorta and published in her main opus *The Gospel as Revealed to Me* and her other writings. They concern the life, teaching and sufferings of Jesus, His Mother Mary and some of the apostles and holy martyrs. This book will be appreciated by Readers of all ages and religions. Frank presented these Valtorta passages over time on his blog post, the selection of which are also suitable as starting point for anyone young or older to whom you wish to introduce Maria's Work. It is now available for purchase from **Amazon**.

5. AN INTERVIEW & WEEKLY TALKS ON VALTORTA & THE WORK by FR. DANIEL MARIA KLIMEK

I was interviewed about Maria Valtorta on Ron Ray's channel, **MOTHER & REFUGE OF THE END TIMES** last year. In January, on that very same channel, **FR. DANIEL MARIA KLIMEK T.O.R** from the USA was also interviewed on Maria Valtorta and her Work. It is one thing to be lay people like us promoting Valtorta but when it is a priest, it is much more powerful and far-reaching.

Stephen Austin, our webmaster, was already familiar with this holy priest many years ago when he included Fr. Daniel Maria's article on William J. Buckley on our website and in his *Summa & Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work*. (This article is included in the **Browsing the Summa** column of this edition).

Although this priest was unknown to me, I was uplifted that in his interview, Fr. Daniel Maria validated everything I had said in mine, including my research for the recent Supplement on 'Mary Co-Redemptrix'. In addition to this, he presented the Work from a **priestly** perspective which made it even more meaningful! What's more, Fr. Daniel Maria has collaborated with Ron Ray to do 30-minute **weekly** talks on Maria Valtorta on this same channel! So Fr. Daniel Maria Klimek is a blessing for the English-speaking world. This channel has 129,000 subscribers. Here is the link again to the original interview

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-Podcasts.html>

Here are a few of his weekly talks on Valtorta so far:

A. **As Revealed to Maria Valtorta w/ Fr Daniel Maria: Sacrifice the Secular this Lent! (18:39)**

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-Podcasts.html>

B. **Fr Daniel Maria: 'The Poem of a Man-God': Re-Crucifying Christ: How Intimately Our Sins Pierce Him!** <https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-Podcasts.html>

C. **POWERFUL! Maria Valtorta w/ Fr. Daniel Maria: Using Sacred Memories & Facing Misunderstandings!**

<https://www.valtorta.org.au/Valtorta-Podcasts.html> 39:20

If you wish to follow his weekly talks, click this link <https://www.youtube.com/@MotherandRefuge/search> (also listed on our website in the tab **Valtorta Podcasts**) and look for any heading that contains Fr. Daniel Maria's name, Valtorta's name or the title of the Work.

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BROWSING THE SUMMA

The article is entitled: ***William F. Buckley's Little-Known Devotion to Italian Mystic Maria Valtorta*** by Fr. Daniel Maria Klimek

'The late William F. Buckley Jr. is usually recognized for his political work. Considered the godfather of the American conservative movement he founded the nation's most eminent political magazine *National Review* and, for decades, hosted the television show *Firing Line* [...].

What less people may know about William Buckley is that, in addition to his political and media endeavors, he also led a fascinating spiritual life as a devout Roman Catholic. His spiritual convictions are what first led a young William Buckley to gain notoriety. As a Yale graduate, himself a Bonesman at the university, Buckley published the polemical and influential book *God and Man at Yale*, criticizing how the Ivy League school he had spent his undergraduate years at, had abandoned its Protestant Christian roots with a promotion of secular (and, at times, downright atheistic) values. [Ed. Fr. Daniel Maria mentions this in his third talk listed above]. As a mature man, Buckley also exuded an interesting faith. He was a traditional Catholic who attended the Latin Mass, even after Vatican II reforms—many of which Buckley disagreed with. His son, the novelist Christopher Buckley, explained: "Pup was a defiantly pre-Vatican II Catholic." To the point that he had a priest say "a private Latin mass for him" every Sunday. Yet, at the same time, William Buckley held a personal devotion to the works of the Italian mystic Maria Valtorta, a significant but controversial figure within the Church.

In his spiritual memoir, *Nearer, My God*, William Buckley wrote of how he first encountered the revelations of Valtorta. "A few years ago, my nephew Fr. Michael Bozell thought to send me some pages from Maria Valtorta, Italian writer and mystic (1897-1961). She wrote a huge five-volume book called *The Poem of the Man God*, and one part of the fifth volume was her fancied vision of the Crucifixion."

[...] The Crucifixion details of Christ's Passion were so powerful in Valtorta's writings and revelations that William Buckley decided to reproduce them in his own spiritual memoir, dedicating 18 pages of his book *Nearer, My God*, to Valtorta's visions of Christ's sacrifice and suffering on the Cross. Buckley would poignantly write in his spiritual autobiography why it was important for him to reproduce Valtorta's work in his own book: "And then, too, certain things catch my eye. The painful, detailed 'vision' of the Crucifixion by Maria Valtorta (chapter 8 of his book) did that when I first read it—so that I proceed simply to pass it along to you, justified only by the conviction that some of you will react as I did."

Buckley was deeply moved by Valtorta's descriptions of Christ's Passion, yet he understood very well that visionary experience is a touchy issue within the Church and, therefore, dealt with it delicately.

"My friend and theological consultant Fr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, who is also a doctor of theology, was a little alarmed at the prospect of my using Valtorta," [...] Interestingly, despite his cautious approach, once Fr. Kevin, the doctor of theology, began to read Valtorta's works to further advise Buckley, what he found – in Valtorta's revelations – surprised the knowledgeable priest greatly. Fr. Kevin wrote to Buckley. "In fact, Valtorta seems to have solved

the Synoptic problem that's been plaguing scholars for centuries, viz., the contradictions between Matthew, Mark, and Luke," Her revelations, instead of replacing the Gospels – what Fr. Kevin feared – filled in the gaps that the Gospels possessed which, as Fr. Kevin noted, had confused scholars for centuries. Thus, Valtorta's revelations helped reconcile for the priest seeming contradictions that exist in the Synoptic Gospels of the New Testament.

While Buckley admired Valtorta's powerful depictions of the Crucifixion, he may not have known how profound the source of her knowledge was in producing those depictions. For example, Buckley wrote: "The account by Valtorta, or at least that much of it that deals specifically with the suffering endured, would be painful reading describing any death by crucifixion. Valtorta is excruciatingly absorbed by physical detail. Either she was once a medical student or else she studied anatomy, bone by bone."

The truth is that Valtorta did neither – medical school or studying anatomy. She had a very simple education. Yet, the profundity of her descriptions, which Buckley noticed, is not something that was lost on other notable observers as well. [...] What Valtorta reported experiencing [...] was the mystical grace of supernatural illumination during her experiences – the ability to adequately describe what she was witnessing through a heavenly knowledge that illuminated her mind (during her ecstasies) and transcended her rational human faculties. Buckley, very reasonably, assumed that she must've had a background in medical studies due to the sophistication of her descriptions. What he didn't consider is quite how powerful her spiritual experiences were in producing that knowledge.

Yet, there is no question that Buckley was very open-minded toward Valtorta's work. He admitted, after all, that part of the ecclesial controversy surrounding Valtorta stemmed from the fact that, at one point, her writings were placed on the Church's (now-abolished) Index of Forbidden Books. However, Buckley was astute enough to recognize that **"that kind of thing happens, and there is often life after death."** He was quite correct with this insightful observation.

[...] There is life after death, as Buckley observed. Much of Valtorta's work has already seen this new life. Her writings have already received the *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur* of a few Catholic bishops, including Bishop Roman Danylak, attesting to the orthodoxy of morals and doctrine within her revelations. Bishop Danylak, additionally provided an interesting explanation as to why works like Saint Faustina's and Maria Valtorta's were placed on the Index in the first place. "Theologians and bishops have problems with supernatural phenomena," he pointed out, recognizing the taboo-nature of the subject in many ecclesial circles.

While this may be the case, the popular portrayal of Valtorta's work, as being perceived negatively in the Church, is not fully accurate either. Pope Pius XII was a great supporter [along with] other eminent Catholic leaders and intellectuals who have been influential supporters of Valtorta's revelations after studying her writings [which] include the Jesuit cardinal Augustine Bea, Msgr. Hugo Lattanzi, Fr. Gabriel M. Roschini, as well as Fr. Gabriele Allegra, famous for translating the entire Bible into Chinese. Fr. Allegra, who was the first Scriptural

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scholar to be beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2002 and is currently awaiting canonization, once wrote: "I hold that the work of Valtorta demands a supernatural origin." To this list of esteemed Catholics, deeply moved and supportive of Maria Valtorta's writings and mystical experiences, add another influential Catholic: one of the most significant voices on American political discourse in the twentieth century – **William F. Buckley, Jr.** <https://www.valtorta.org.au/William-Buckley-Valtorta.html> and in the *Summa & Encyclopedia of Maria Valtorta's Extraordinary Work* by Stephen Austin, p.406f.

READER'S CHOICE

I selected this passage because it shows the relationship between Jesus and Judas, and after a life-threatening incident, Judas admits to being afraid of death.

VIC LUND, CANADA

(Maria says:) Jesus has taken the Iscariot by the arm and has gone ahead with him. He speaks to him kindly. He tries to work upon his heart upset by his recent fear of God's judgments:

« You can see, Judas, how easily one can die. Death is always on the look-out around us. You can see how what seems negligible when we are full of life becomes important, fearfully important when death skims us. But why should one wish to have such frights? Why should one create them to have them present at the moment of death, when with a holy life one can ignore the terror of the impending divine judgment? Do you not think that it is worth living a just life in order to have a peaceful death? Judas, My friend. The divine paternal mercy has allowed that to happen, so that it might be an appeal to your heart. You are still in time, Judas... Why do you not want to give your Master, Who is about to die, the great, the very great joy of knowing that you have come back to Good? »

« But can You still forgive me, Jesus? »

« And would I speak to you like this if I could not? How little you still know Me! I know you. I know that you are like one who is seized by a giant octopus. But if you wanted, you could still free yourself. Oh! you would certainly suffer. It would be painful to tear off those chains that torture and poison you. But later, how much joy, Judas! Are you afraid that you may not have enough strength to react against those who influence you? I can absolve you in advance of the sin of infringing the Passover rite... You are ill. Passover is not compulsory for sick people. No one is more sick than you are. You are like a leper. Lepers do not go up to Jerusalem, while they are such. You must realise, Judas, that to appear before the Lord with an unclean spirit, such as you have, does not honour Him, but it offends Him. First it is necessary... »

« Why do You not purify and cure me, then? » asks Judas, and he already sounds hard and indocile.

« I will not cure you! When a man is ill he seeks cure by himself, unless it is a child or a fool who are devoid of will-power... »

« Treat me as such. Treat me as a fool and see to it, without my being aware of it. »

« It would not be just because you can use your will-power. You know what is good and what is evil for you. And My curing you would be of no avail without your will to remain cured. »

« Give me such will as well. »

« Give you it? So should I impose a good will on you? And

your free will? What would it become? What would your ego of a man, of a free creature be? Dominated? »

« As I am dominated by Satan, I may also be dominated by God! »

« How you hurt Me, Judas! You pierce My heart! But I forgive you what you do to Me... Dominated by Satan, you said. I did not mean such a dreadful thing... »

« But You were thinking of it because You know that it is true, and because You are aware of it, if it is true that You can read the hearts of men. If it is so, You know that I am no longer free to do what I like... He has seized me and... »

« No. He approached you, tempting you, testing you, and you received him. There is no possession if at the beginning there is no assent to some satanic temptation. »

(P5, 278-9; G9, 209-10)

REQUEST

In December 2021 in Supplement #104, Readers were invited to send in their favourite or most meaningful passage from any of Maria Valtorta's writings (a very hard task, I agree) along with 80 words or less on what this passage meant to them. In our recent Zoom meeting, one Reader from the USA shared a passage which she said was the **catalyst** for her wanting to CONTINUE reading the enormity of Maria Valtorta's writings. This led to the idea that our September 2024 Supplement should be devoted to Reader contributions too, which we coined, "**What got you more hooked on the Work?**" Which passage reveals an event or a person that got you **more hooked** on Maria Valtorta's writings **PLUS** 80 words or less explaining why. **NOTE:** You do not have to copy out the passage. Just tell me the edition (Poem or Gospel), the Volume, the page, where it starts and where it ends. I will do the rest and get back to you for finalisation.

CATALOGUE ITEMS FOR THIS CALENDAR SEASON

Here are a few suggested recommendations for your consideration that could be shared with both long-standing and new Readers of Valtorta during this Season of Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

1. **Judas Iscariot- The Betrayer of Jesus (50p) \$4.00**

2. **Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (56p) \$6.00**

3. **Stations of the Cross (22p) \$3.50**

4. **Stations of the Cross AUDIO CD 90 minutes \$6.00**

5. **Jesus Teaches How To Evangelise (44p) \$4.00**

6. **Come Holy Spirit (28p) \$3.50**

Please email catherine@valtorta.org.au for orders and postage costs.

2024 CATALOGUE ATTACHED

† REST IN PEACE †

Please pray for the soul of

JOE DAWE

Husband of Tess, long-time members

TONY MARTIN

Husband of Carmen, both avid Valtorta readers

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.]