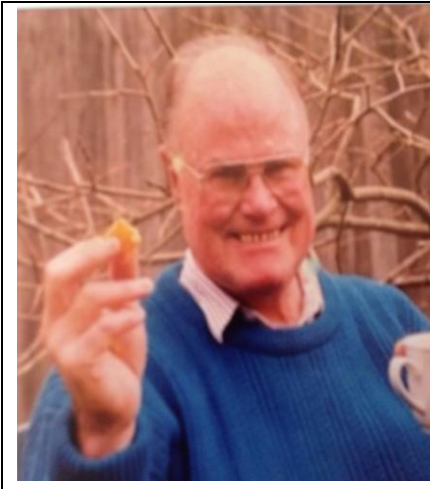


MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP
THE SUPPLEMENT No. 105 – MARCH 2022



David Murray



The Rose Petal



Maria Valtorta

MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP
Memories & Condolences - David Murray 1932-2022

(Ed:) This has to be the most difficult Supplement that I have ever had to put together. Not only because it is a farewell to David Murray, but also because there were so many emails of condolences from Readers worldwide that were so overwhelming. The emails have been passed on to the Murray family, all of which were equally valued and appreciated. David came to know so many of you in some way – directly and indirectly...but now he certainly knows you all by name and by face! Thank you for your prayers and for all the Masses you have organised for him.

David's funeral was certainly a personal remembrance of his life by his whole family, but David's sons were so kind as to invite us to present the Maria Valtorta component of their father's life through David's rose petal, the reading of Maria Valtorta's account of the **Baptism of Jesus** read by David himself, and by the eulogy which focused on the man of the Maria Valtorta Apostolate as we came to know him.

This Supplement consists of three parts: **Part One** begins with a passage from Maria Valtorta's writings on Death. **Part Two** lists **condolences** of love and sadness from Maria Valtorta Readers from 17 countries, and **Part Three** ends with a copy of **the eulogy** presented at the funeral, from the perspective of David Murray's Apostolate – the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group.

PART ONE – MARIA VALTORTA PASSAGE
JESUS SPEAKS TO MARIA ABOUT DEATH

(Jesus says:) *'Those who are not familiar with love and whose conscience is not tranquil, fear death. And they are the majority! These, when they feel threatened by death because of illness, or age, or any other event, grow fearful, become afflicted and rebel. They also try, with all their strength and by every means, to avoid it. Futilely, for when the hour is indicated, no precaution is of use to stave off death. The hour of death is also right because it is given by God. I alone am the Master of life and death,*

[...] Death sentences are always mine, given to remove a soul from excessive earthly torment or to prevent greater sins by that soul.

Now, observe: the gift of life, of a long life - why may it be given by Me? For two reasons.

First: because that creature who enjoys it, is an enlightened spirit with the mission of being a beacon to other spirits still enshrouded in the mists of materiality. Many of my saints have reached advanced age precisely for this reason. And only I know how they instead longed to come to Me.

Secondly: I give a long life to provide the means, all the means, for a formless creature to become formed. Studies, friendships, holy encounters, sorrows, joys, readings, the punishments of wars or illnesses - *everything is given by Me to seek to have a soul grow in my Age, which is not like yours. [...] Growing in my Age means to grow in my Wisdom, and people can be adults in my Age with the age of sons and daughters in yours, or, vice versa, be puerile in my Age, at the age of one hundred in yours. I observe your spirits, and I would like you to become spirits able to walk, speak and act securely, and not be stammering, tottering, and incapable - like babies!*

This explains why I utter my "Enough" very quickly for creatures whom I find to be adults in Faith, Charity and Life. A father always wishes to be reunited with his sons and daughters, and, once their education or military service is over, how joyfully he clasps them to his heart! And will your good Father in heaven act differently? No. When He sees that a creature is adult in spirit, He burns with the desire to take that creature with Himself, and if, out of mercy on the people, He sometimes leaves his servants on earth so that they will be a magnet and a compass for others, He sometimes does not resist and grants Himself the joy of placing a new star in Heaven with the soul of a saint. [...]

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Maria, [when a person dies], the upraised arms of the soul encounter the outreaching arms of God. And when they touch, swiftly grazing against each other, it is ecstasy on earth. When they lastingly clasp each other, it is the endless Blessedness of Heaven, of my Heaven, which I created for you, my beloved, and which will give Me a superabundance of joy when it is filled with all my beloved.

What an eternal day of measureless joy is ours - us who love one another: *We, Triune God; and you, the sons and daughters of God!*

But those who, unfortunately for them, have not understood my Love, have not given Me their love, have not understood that only one science is useful, that of Love - for them death is fearful. They are afraid. They are even more afraid if they feel they have acted not very well or quite badly.

Death is inevitable. *Blessed are those who arrive at that hour clothed in love to meet the One who is coming.* Serene will be their death - like the passing away of my earthly father who experienced no trembling because there was nothing to be reproached in his life. Joyful - like the sleep of my Mother who closed her eyes on earth before a vision of love, for her whole life, which knew no sin, was loving, and She reopened them in Heaven, awakening upon the Heart of God.

[...] *But when the time comes, I will pour out a river of joy, for it will no longer be necessary to maintain your human life, and we shall go off together.*

(Notebooks 1943, pp. 223-6)

PART TWO - CONDOLENCES

AUSTRALIA

† REST IN PEACE †

I remember David's talks here in Sydney. My brother, Joe is reading the volumes for about the 13th time!

Veronica Gaweda (Sydney, Australia)

I often thought of the many times we spent together recording ...Out of sight but not out of mind and heart. May God grant his Soul Rest In Peace, and all his loved ones. Be comforted, as only God can, at the news of David's passing.

Dale (Melbourne, Australia)

May he rest in Peace, Amen. *Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, may Perpetual light shine upon him.* David, thank you for your wonderful service.

Hank Facer (Australia)

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Percy Rame (Brisbane, Australia)

I only met David once about 15 years ago when he told me the story of his life, involvement with promoting the writings of Maria Valtorta, and his rose petal with the image of Christ. I will be present at his funeral.

Ange Braysha (Melbourne, Australia)

We remember David with much love. He stayed here once with Peter and I on one of his Valtortaling trips. We enjoyed his company immensely on various occasions over the years. How lovely that his neighbour was with David, praying the Rosary when he died. We all need

friends like him. Yes, I am sure Maria Valtorta will be welcoming David with open arms.

Lynne Podgoczyk (Australia)

While David's death is very sad for us, it is also a joy for him to have gone Home, and that we will once again, eventually, get to enjoy his company...forever. It was undoubtedly a joy in my own life that I got to know David, and to spend some time with him on his 'valtortaling' wanders.

Catherine Smith (Australia)

[...] You know David was loved, IS loved, and God has been the link in the chain of Maria Valtorta followers, holding us together with our broken hearts. But knowing he is with Jesus, Mother Mary & St. Joseph and, of course, Maria, brings us the Hope within our Faith.

Rosemarie Lennox (Melbourne, Australia)

I can just imagine Our Lord welcoming him with open arms.

Ken & Tamara (Queensland, Australia)

We first met David 1992/3 and we became very good friends. I enjoyed helping David when he first started his research. It was a wonderful journey he pursued. (I actually commenced connecting *the Poem* to our Bible, but realized it was beyond me!). David went to the same school (St Patrick's College, Strathfield) as my three sons & four grandsons. An amazing man and an amazing conversion story.

Tony Grace (Sydney, Australia)

For me, David will continue to live on by way of his audios - especially my favourites: 'Soul to Soul' and 'The Sunday Gospels'. I have been praying for his soul since reading your email. David now goes to his reward after all his tireless work over many years promoting the writings of Maria Valtorta.

Carmel Tanna (Australia)

I am so grateful for your reading group and to learn that it exists because David took the time and energy to begin the reading group, I have the gift of learning and being enriched by it. I love it and refer to the website often.

Margaret Marie (Australia)

David was such a special and lovely man. I had the privilege of knowing him nearly 30 years - God love him.

Kathryn O'Connor (Melbourne, Australia)

Thanks for informing me of the sad news but for David, it is anything but sad because he is finally at home with his God, Jesus, Mary and Maria V. It was also lovely to see that he died Peacefully.

Len Moore (Melbourne, Australia)

Thank you for the announcement of David's entry into paradise. May the angels take him to paradise and Maria Valtorta greet him with joy.

Lorraine (Melbourne Australia)

You two would have done so much together in relation to Maria Valtorta's writings, I am sure you would have been almost able to read each other's minds. Well done to you both. He did well to get to 90.

Tony Murnane (Melbourne, Australia)

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[...] Very sad news indeed and I had no idea David was approaching 90 - he seemed so young the last time I saw him when he visited Darwin in the early 2000's. Please pass my condolences, and those of all his friends in Darwin, on to his sons, and all of you, of course, who knew him so well. David shared something very special with me at the Darwin airport as he was waiting for his flight back to Melbourne. He said he hadn't shared this with anyone else at that time, and as you know, he was such a humble man that he was almost embarrassed to have this beautiful story known. I feel very privileged that he shared it with me [...] and he had tears in his eyes as he shared it. I rejoice to think that David is now there to meet so many beloved friends, like Maria Valtorta. [...] Now we have another Saint in heaven to whom we can turn for intercessory prayers!

Jan Pile (Darwin, Australia)

What a nice way to go Home. It seems to me, that to the last breath, David has shown his faithfulness to the messages that Christ wants us all to believe and accept as we follow Him through the writings of Maria Valtorta. May David have the joy of being in the presence of Our Father forever...

Nestor Palma (Canberra, Australia)

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. A more dedicated and enthusiastic lover of Maria Valtorta could never be found. Yes, he has certainly gone to his eternal reward for his tireless efforts and is in Maria's good company. Thank you for conveying this to us so quickly so we can offer thanksgiving for the gift of his life and that we had the joy of knowing him and benefiting from his untiring dedication.

Sharon McCourt (Australia)

I am sad to hear of David's death. He stayed at my place many years ago when 'valtorting' in Brisbane. He will be a wonderful advocate for us in Heaven. Thank you, David.

June Bell (Australia)

What a lovely way to go home. God has blessed him and there is no way he would want to come back. It is a good time to leave before what is to come.

Judith Moller (Australia)

Yes, I knew David for a long time. Even though I live in Sydney, we saw each other from time to time. The time we first met would have to be the time he made his first visit to Sydney. I am unsure what year that was. Do not grieve too much as he is in Good and Holy Company!

Anna Conrard (Sydney Australia)

Oh bless his dear soul - a life given to the mission of spreading these wonderful works of God. He was a tireless worker in the vineyard. May his soul rest in the peace of a life well lived.

Penny Hendrie (Australia)

God bless David's family as he will be missed. *May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.*

Malcolm Westwood (Australia)

Thank you for letting me know about David. May he rest in peace.

Maureen Wright (Australia)

I know David would have been well prepared [for death] in himself. But, the rest of us were not so prepared. I have so many fond memories of David from so many years ago. He was so on fire with MV's writings, he made them contagious. Besides his spiritual energy and knowledge, he was a character with it as well - always full of good cheer. I will offer some Holy Masses for him in the next few days.

Fr Peter (Australia)

I met David a number of times when he visited Brisbane. He'll be in my prayers.

Margaret-Mary Hayes (Brisbane Australia)

Sad but happy news! He worked tirelessly to promote these wonderful works. How many of us have benefitted from this treasure. He and his family will be in our Masses and rosaries.

Kirsten Stephens (Australia)

I never met him but I am immensely grateful to him for the amazing work he has done in promoting the writings of Maria Valtorta. I'm sure she welcomed him to heaven with open arms.

Fr. Bruno (Melbourne Australia)

Sad, indeed. In our prayers.

Pascale Cotterill (Tasmania, Australia)

Sad to hear but he is with God now! I called him recently, and I am so glad I did. May his soul rest in peace.

Marie (Melbourne, Australia)

With fond remembrance of David and his great love and enthusiasm for the writings of Maria Valtorta; I bless and hold him in my heart, thoughts and words. Without his work and sacrificial love, I would not have had the opportunity to be carried and blessed, with many others, along the journey into the hidden life and teaching of Mary and Jesus. I am happy David died peacefully.

Patricia Cullen (Australia)

Thank you for the lovely note, although sad news. How strange that we should be talking about David's favourite subject this very morning [of his death] on the phone. I shall be requesting a Holy Mass for his soul from our Marian Priest in New Zealand. *ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD, LET PETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM. MAY HE REST IN PEACE*

Margaret Burgstaller (Australia)

I will offer Mass for Dave whom I have known for over 50 years.

Fr. David (Australia)

May his soul rest in Peace.

Kevin Nair (Australia)

Catherine, it was nice to meet you at last at the funeral and share our knowledge of David. We met David a long time ago - it may extend to late 1980s at Sylvan.

Peter & Mary Hicks (Melbourne, Australia)

Very much a heavy and sad heart.

Anne Lastman (Australia)

I remember David well. A nice man.

Greg (Melbourne, Australia)

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May he rest in peace.

Fr. James (Australia)

This is very sad news.

Bob Byrne (Canada)

Thank you for letting me know the sad but joy-filled news about David. I can't remember when we first met but it has been quite a while! I do recall that someone had mentioned the newsletter and David kindly sent me the back copies, about four or five of them. We exchanged phone calls and he visited Northam twice, the second time he overnighted with us. I appreciated the hours of hard work that he spent on Valtorta as I was a beneficiary of that work. Interestingly, I had begun to make notes as I was reading the works but quickly discontinued that because David had it all well covered. Since then, other readers have also made notes! I will have a Mass offered for his soul as a final gesture of respect.

Condolences to all his special Valtorta family, and of course his real family. **Eva Richter, (Western Australia)**

I am sorry for the loss. **Antonia (Melbourne, Australia)**

CANADA

† REST IN PEACE †

My sincerest condolences to all that prayed with him, shared the writings of Maria Valtorta that he loved so much with him and, of course, knew him personally. When I first discovered Maria Valtorta's writings 10 years ago, I spoke with David on the phone. David helped me locate and shipped me a book that I could not easily obtain here in Canada. I will remember his soft voice and I am thankful that I was able to put that voice to his name.

Trevor Shinkewski (Alberta, Canada)

I had the pleasure of meeting David at His Grace's residence in Toronto, and Bishop Danylak was a great supporter of David and the Maria Valtorta series. His Grace said that when he first read the books, he couldn't put them down until he completed reading all of them! The 'He Who Is' prayer group was privileged to have David accompany us to Marmora. It was a delight to get to know him, even if it was just a little bit.

Mary McBride (Toronto, Canada)

My sympathies to the family. **Paul Brodeur (Canada)**

I met David when he was visiting Toronto to give a talk about the Valtorta books at the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church, with Bishop Roman Danylak. Later in the evening, a bunch of us went out for supper to a Greek restaurant and enjoyed each other's company! It was wonderful to meet David! A wonderful man! We will see him in Heaven! **Michael Starosta, (Toronto, Canada)**

We are saddened to hear of David's passing but we believe the Lord wanted to have him home to celebrate his birthday there. We will keep him in our prayers.

Tony & Carmen Martins (Ontario, Canada)

I met David in the 90's when he visited Calgary promoting the Valtorta Work. In fact, he stayed at my house and we went out to the Rocky Mountains just west of here. May this missionary of a great Revelation rest in peace. Many Blessings to the Readers' Group.

Derek Patrick Owens. (Calgary, Canada)

We have received so many spiritual benefits, thanks to David's mission as disciple of Maria Valtorta. Both continues from Heaven, their mission to enrich our own spiritual life for a better missionary life on earth, and a better Heavenly Heritage. May Jesus, Mary and St Joseph receive our petitions for them during our novena of Masses celebrated for David. May you also, Catherine, and the so many others in the background, receive our prayers of support to continue to represent the English world of Maria Valtorta.

Fr. John (Canada)

CHILE

† REST IN PEACE †

Very sad but grateful for your remembrances of David Murray. Our wonderful Lord Jesus has blessed you each with a great & glorious mission.

Mimi Kintner (Santiago, Chile)

ENGLAND

† REST IN PEACE †

I am sorry about David's passing ...But he is happier now.

Anthony Fodor (England)

INDONESIA

† REST IN PEACE †

Because of his website, I came to know about Maria Valtorta's books and more about the Gospel. May the Father, Jesus and Mother Mary bless David's soul and welcome him in heaven.

Maria Alvina (Indonesia)

My love and prayers for David. He is a very effective evangelist and saint. Send my regards to his sons and family. What a coincidence. I just remembered him two days ago when I found David's handwritten small note (billing) in the *Poem* books, the *Pilgrim* guides etc. He delivered these books personally to my son (Mikael) in Melbourne eight years ago. Since then I never stop reading the *Poem* and the small books compiled by David. It's a real treasure. I give thanks to God for David's ministry although I never met him personally.

Aloisius Jasin (Jakarta, Indonesia)

IRELAND

† REST IN PEACE †

David's voice was dear to our heart in reading *the Poem*.

Marcus O'Sullivan (Ireland)

May the Lord bless and reward him for his great work, which blessed so many people. May he rest in peace!

Teresa Moynihan (Dublin, Ireland)

ITALY

† REST IN PEACE †

I knew him for a very long time and I met him personally at the Centro Editoriale Valtortiano when he came to Italy many years ago. I will always remember him and I will ask him to remember all of us.

Giovanna Busolini (Italy)

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My deepest condolences for David. I was never fortunate enough to meet him, but your eulogy says so much about him that I almost feel I did. I am so grateful to the Good Lord for him and his work! May the Mercy of God console his family and you all.

Lucia Martinucci
(The Maria Valtorta Onlus Foundation- Italy)

We remember David as a peaceful person during meetings, when he used to come to Italy to visit Maria Valtorta's sites: her bedroom in her house in Viareggio, her grave in the chapel of the **Basilica della Santissima Annunziata (Basilica of the Most Holy Annunciation)**, and the book centre in Isola del Liri. Peacefully and lovingly, David Murray disseminated Maria Valtorta's Work in the minds and hearts of Australian [& English-speaking Readers worldwide]. (Taken from *Il Bollettino Valtortiano -16 Feb The Maria Valtorta Heritage Foundation, Italy*)

NEW ZEALAND

† REST IN PEACE †

Dear David!! What a beautiful man - and what a beautiful time he will be experiencing now. Wow, to think he has now met Maria. He won't be concerned now about staying here till he turned 90-years-old - he will be thankful he didn't wait another month or so. He was such a good and gentle man. I must put his audio tape on again. He did say he wanted one of his songs played at his funeral. Please keep in touch and let me know when his funeral will be. I will watch and be praying here during the funeral.

Gwen Story (New Zealand)

I met David years ago when he spoke to a group of us in Lower Hutt, and it is through him that so many of us have come to know of the works of Maria. I still love reading some of the *Poem* every evening before sleeping. God bless him.

Maureen (New Zealand)

It seems such a long time ago that I went to the Hillsborough Parish to hear David talking about Maria Valtorta and *The Poem of the Man God*. I always looked forward to reading his contributions to the Readers' Group bulletin.

Alison (New Zealand)

Yes, I read this sad news and David will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him and all those who appreciated the great work he did for the Maria Valtorta readers.

Angela (New Zealand)

I always felt that David has given many more years of grace and value to the Readers Group than was ever imagined. Jesus had big plans for him and David cheerfully carried out his mission with astounding energy and God-given knowledge. David ran the race that was given to him and I am grateful to have come to know him through the Readers' Group. May God Bless and Protect David now as he travels on his new journey to meet Jesus in Heaven.

Ricky (New Zealand)

PHILIPPINES

† REST IN PEACE †

Sad indeed. My condolences.

Christian Basarte (Philippines)

ROMANIA

† REST IN PEACE †

May GOD embrace his gentle soul for all eternity. A huge loss for his beloved ones which I hope will soon be compensated with a new friend in Heaven. RIP.

Serban Radu (Romania)

SINGAPORE

† REST IN PEACE †

I had the privilege of speaking to David a couple of times, the last was when he was exploring options of coming to Kuala Lumpur to promote Maria Valtorta a couple of years ago. I also purchased his books and promoted it amongst our prayer group. I will certainly miss him and will have mass offered for the repose of his soul.

Denise Miranda (Singapore)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

† REST IN PEACE †

Indeed, he is a wonderful man. He now meets our Lord Jesus Christ, our Mother Mary etc. We must not be troubled in our heart because we will have our own time to meet them in the next life. I will offer a Mass for the repose of his soul, and for the consolation and comfort of family members, friends & associates of Maria Valtorta.

Fr. Albert (Solomon Islands)

SOUTH AFRICA

† REST IN PEACE †

May David's soul rest in peace and be welcomed in his final home in heaven by Maria Valtorta and our blessed Lord. I met David when he was in Pretoria, South Africa, and came to our prayer group one evening. It was a blessing to have met him and we had a wonderful evening together.

Mary Van Kets (Pretoria, South Africa)

SOUTH KOREA

† REST IN PEACE †

I remembered that it was David who kindly replied to me in 2005, 17 years ago, when I wanted to order all books about MV. It brings me sadness to know he just passed away. I will pray for his eternal happiness. I'm sure that he will help us from heaven from now on.

Veronica Lee (Seoul, South Korea)

TANZANIA

† REST IN PEACE †

May God rest his gentle and peaceful soul. I will offer some Holy Masses for him.

Pius I. Nwankwo, CMF (Tanzania)

I am feeling very, very sad. David was really my friend. We established our friendship in 2004. He was helping me financially. I will pray for his soul. I am sure his soul is with God, waiting for us. O God, receive and accept David's soul. Amen. Our beloved friend, David, has gone. He will never depart from our heart. Let us still pray for his soul even though I personally believe he is with God, watching over and praying for us.

Fr. Gerold Mbamba (Tanzania)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA † REST IN PEACE †

I hope Maria and Jesus will welcome David to eternal life. God rest his soul. I will offer a prayer for the repose of his soul at our prayer group tonight.

Mavis Grodzach (Las Vegas, USA)

My prayers and blessings for the repose of David's soul and for the comfort of all his family and loved ones. I almost met him in Rome, Italy. I was recruited by him to be the chaplain to a pilgrimage he organized to Viareggio, the home of Maria Valtorta. A life-changing experience.

Fr. Edgar (USA)

The words, 'rest in peace' said with regard to David are a given of certainty, aren't they? What a holy life of service to God and to us. I was just reminded that I have spent many hours yesterday and today in the *Poem* volumes and Maria's *Notebooks* searching for passages on a certain topic for my daughter who lives in Geraldton, Australia. I live in California. Bless David, you and any others who prepared ahead for his inevitable passing from this side of life into eternal life so that his mission will continue uninterrupted.

Jacqueline Henss (California, USA)

I joined this group when David was the one preparing and sending the bulletins. He has done so much for our Church, for Christ...His life calls for a great celebration. *'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain.'* (Rev 21:4)

Halina Hladysz (USA)

I am very sad to hear of the death of dear David.

Janice Cummings (USA)

I had David come to my home years ago in Southern California to have a discussion on Maria Valtorta's works. He spoke to some folks we had over, and with my father, Ed Ford. I still read the *Poem of the Man-God* nightly when home. My soul is continually nourished by the experience.

John Ford (California, USA)

I also feel the great loss that you must feel. Please, David, help us with your prayers from Heaven, which we need so desperately!

Dave Webster (USA)

I'm going to miss David. He did such great work spreading Maria Valtorta's writings. His work will live on in the plethora of booklets he created, including the popular *Pilgrim's Guide* and *Where Is It?* indexes. I will miss him dearly. I'm so glad we have been able to take over his MVRG apostolate.

Stephen Austin (USA)

'Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.'- Psalms 116:15. May God Bless his soul. The church will never forget him.

Tigy Thomas (Georgia, USA)

Thank you, may He Rest in Peace and receive his crown for the beautiful work he has done for transmitting the writings of Maria Valtorta.

Joanne Abate (USA)

David meant a lot to me as well, especially with the newsletters over the years. Although I never met him on this earth, I hope to meet him in the kingdom of heaven along with Maria. I just finished reading an excerpt from the *Poem*. This is my fourth time reading it over the last 30 years. May he Rest In Peace.

Gerard Beer (Pennsylvania, USA)

I mostly remember David when he visited us in Conyers, Georgia. He asked me to set up a few reading/promotional sessions while he visited, and met Fr. Anthony, Abbey, of the Holy Spirit Monastery. As you may know, Fr. Anthony was the first to correlate *the Poem* with associated Bible verses. The crypt in the Monastery was one of the venues David performed various reading sessions for those that showed interest. We will miss David and the force he put forth in promoting the Intimate Life Of Christ portrayed in *The Poem Of The Man-God* by Maria Valtorta. God be with you, You were for us, an example of a great Lover of 'Little John' and her Work, the Word Of Christ. In memory of you, your friend and acquaintance.

Juan M and Luisa Ruiz (Georgia, USA)

I hosted David here in Los Angeles many years ago and felt a deep love for him. He brought Maria Valtorta alive with his love for her books. I am so sad to hear this news but know he's so happy being with Our Lord, Our Lady, Maria Valtorta and every single Saint we have read about and loved in MV's books. He will meet them all and he will be beaming his love to all of us. God Bless His Soul.

Sue Horwood (USA)

I am so very sorry for your loss - Our loss. I remember when he came to San Antonio, TX and visited with us. It was a joy to meet him. What an honor!

Guadalupe Nypaver (Texas, USA)

Heavens' Gate is no longer waiting for David's Soul. Maria Valtorta's works greatly boosted my spiritual understanding, knowledge and faith in our Lord Jesus, the Christ, our Savior, our Messiah, the Son of Man, and the Son of God. Jesus and Mary are our perfect Earthly Example and our Judge. The *Notebooks* share an unvarnished truth about Christian persecution, and offer many life events that are just as true today as then. Your effort, determination, and true grit in promoting and protecting the work of Maria Valtorta and her Church Status does not go unnoticed. I will follow your lead.

Drew Loucks (USA)

May our loving Father in heaven receive David with open arms and may he be enjoying an even more up close and personal encounter with Jesus, Mary and our dear 'Little John'. David Murray, may you rest in peace. Thank you for everything!

Karen Bonvecchio (USA)

Sad news indeed. I only spoke with David a few times, but always enjoyed him. I just watched David's funeral. Very powerful and meaningful to all of us Readers of MV, for certain. Thanks to whomever arranged the broadcast.

Alastair Lough (Maine, USA)

Psalm 116:15 *'Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants!!!'*

Jorge Castro (USA)

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I shall request mass for him. I can still see him in my mind's eye when he came to Los Angeles. Indeed, now we have someone praying for us with Maria. May he now continue his singing to God with the Heavenly Hosts.

Josephine Shiplacoff (USA)

May God welcome this blessed soul into paradise. Please have Masses offered for David. We can no longer improve our lot at our death, but our loved ones can do so with offerings of prayers and Masses! I will have a Mass said for him this week.

Association of the Precious Blood (Florida, USA)

He did a good work for the Glory of God. May he receive his just reward and remember us poor souls still walking in this valley of tears.

Association of the Precious Blood (Florida, USA)

I had the honor of working with David assisting him with purchases of his wonderful materials here in the US and spoke with him several times when he was very active in the early days of Valtorta Readers' Group. He was a wonderful and blessed soul and the world feels a bit more empty to me today, but heaven must truly be rejoicing.

Hugh Kelly (USA)

Many prayers for him today! As Jesus says so well in the Poem – 'One MOMENT in Heaven is greater than the most triumphant LIFETIME ever lived.'

John Coyne (USA)

God bless and keep him on his new life journey.

Gary Hurley (USA)

David's apostolate was worldwide and touched so many hearts. What a legacy! As I pray for his repose, I ask that he continues to pray for ours.

Ed Chavez (USA)

WHO WILL EVER BE ABLE TAKE HIS PLACE ?

Ronald Gregorio (Illinois, USA)

He will be in my prayers!

Susan Wilkinson (USA)

May God bless David. **Steve Faucher (California, USA)**

God Bless David Murray. I am happy for him. Will remember him and his family in prayer. A big Valtorta fan.

Mary Ann Augustine (USA)

ZAMBIA

† REST IN PEACE †

SO LONG, DAVID. It is with pain and tearful eyes that I sit down to put down a few words for the best writer I have ever known: David. I cannot bring myself to say one of the hardest words to utter: Goodbye. To me, your spirit lives on as long as what you have started lives on: the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group. The group may not be in one place as members are scattered all over planet Earth. Your written word of Maria Valtorta materials will be a reminder of your spiritual legacy. You have discovered now how many souls you have won for the Man-God through the Maria Valtorta works and through your global

'Valtortaling'. Zambia was honored by your inspirational visit. You did push your limits to make Jesus known.

I never dreamt I would step foot in the holy home of the Valtorta family visited by the Lord Himself for His masterpiece of dictations in Viareggio and the Basilica where Maria Valtorta's remains are interred but you, David, made this memorable Golden Jubilee pilgrimage possible. This was a trip you desired to make with us but your ill-health at that time, made it impossible for you to undertake it. I owe the holding of many Valtorta materials in my hands and heart to you. I cannot thank you enough, David. Maria Valtorta, on behalf of the Heavenly Hosts, has definitely received the great messenger and crusader, at the gates of Heaven to say, 'Well done, David.'

The Earth has lost a golden voice, which has joined the ranks of the Heavenly choirs of Angels in David Murray. I feel something important in me is lost. You meant a lot in the spiritual wealth we shared through our mutual devotion to Valtorta's works which I, in turn, shared with those the Lord brought my way. You have run the human race worthily; it is time for you to meet in reality, the One you made known (as Assistant Convener); the Convener Himself, the Man-God. So long, David, so long. Rest in Heavenly peace and pray for us and with us, until Maria Valtorta is declared a saint.

'Let the Cross of death – man's last cross – have two arms. Let one be my Cross, and the other, the name of Mary.' From *Love and Pain – The path to Holiness*. From the writings of Maria Valtorta compiled by David Murray.

Sr. Christine Kabumbu, SCJ –(Zambia)

PART THREE - EULOGY

Eulogy of the Maria Valtorta Component of David D. Murray's Life

Presented on Monday 31 January, 2022

at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia

I was correctly introduced as Catherine Loft, but as I stand before you, I don't want you to see me as an individual because today, **I am here to represent the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group in Australia and worldwide** - a multitude of people globally who were touched by David Murray's efforts in some way through his mission to make the writings of Maria Valtorta known and loved.

Thank you, Kevin, for giving us information and insight into your father's life because the David we knew, from post-60 years of age, was always private and unassuming as David made it clear from the beginning that **his focus was to promote the writings of Maria Valtorta. He wanted nothing of himself to be present – it was all about these writings.**

David had been away from the Church for about 15 years but when he came across a Marian Apparition in Europe and he had read the messages, he felt them to be true. So he decided to make a pilgrimage in 1992 with 32 people. However, David wasn't ready for what was to follow. He said that during the trip, it felt like he was trapped in a bus for hours with people who kept praying the rosary and singing hymns, and he found this so aggravating and annoying throughout the whole bus trip. "Oh, not again!" he would mutter to himself.

His spirit had not yet been moved.

MARIA VALTORTA READERS GROUP

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However, this same group were all reading Maria Valtorta's writings on the life of Jesus and Mary. One night, the person with whom he was sharing a room, left his Volume 5 of the *Poem of the Man-God* on the bed, so David decided to take a look. Suffice to say that when David returned to Melbourne, he decided to read them. His first reading of the five volumes took about nine months. His second reading took about six months.

It was **through these readings that David reflected on his life and started to repair relationships that were damaged and broken - with God and with others**, which helped him revert to the Catholic faith on a long but life-changing journey. And what a co-incidence that some of these very works that had changed David's heart had been translated into English by a priest, by the name of ...David Murray.

In 1995, after studying these writings religiously for three years, David decided to visit Italy - in order to make contact with the publisher of these works. However, before he left, he was told by a woman in Canada about a manifestation that was taking place at the same time to a young Filipino man. [Ed: David told me he called him 'Eddie' because he could not recall his real name) but Carmelo Cortez had an altar at home with a crucifix and one day, someone noticed that some of the rose petals that had fallen from the vase on the altar - had images of Jesus, Mary and St Joseph. So David decided to visit Italyand Canada.

When he met Shelagh Greensides in Canada, she gave him Carmelo's rose petal with the crucified face of Jesus and, on his return to Melbourne, he showed it to a friend who photographed it, enlarged it and found a connection between the image on the rose petal **and** the description of the Holy Shroud **and** Maria Valtorta's detailed account of Jesus' suffering.

Well, this led David to go out and do a series of informative talks and readings in Melbourne, because he couldn't find any kindred spirits with whom to share these precious writings. Early in 1996, he thought of going on the road or 'valtortaling', as he called it, to share his excitement and deep appreciation of Maria's works further. He was delighted to receive invitations to speak to twelve groups in New South Wales and Queensland, and later in the other states and territories in Australia.

Having recently retired from lecturing in surveying and town planning, this was a very different audience for him, and he wondered if he was up to it. He was also concerned if he could manage all the driving and travelling he would have to do - at his age and alone. But when he selected a random bible passage for inspiration, in it the Lord said: *'My face shall go before thee and I shall give thee rest.'* (Exodus 33:14)

David trusted - and he carried that rose petal with the face of Jesus in his pocket wherever he went, right until the time he went into care. David then spent eighteen years valtortaling to various countries, promoting the writings: To Italy, Canada, New Zealand, the USA, Ireland, England, Singapore, & the Philippines.

During this time, David was never alone in this mission - he met other people who loved these works and he teamed up with them during his valtortaling trips. David achieved so much - he produced around 30 thematic booklets, three guides, and hundreds of audio recordings. These compilations amounted to hundreds of pages, and

were based on thousands of hours of research and editing.

David knew - and made it clear **that these writings were never meant to replace the Holy Bible but they were given to enhance the content, add details, make it visual, and therefore make it come alive.**

When David turned 80 in 2012, he started to think that it was time to slow down and pass the baton to someone else while he still had his faculties. But it was never the right moment. 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.

When Stephen Austin visited Australia in 2014 from the US, David observed the interaction that took place. 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...a relay with others.

In 2016, David felt confident and at peace with handing it over to a team of four to continue the work he started, but now in a world of growing technology and social-media. He always said to me "You can either take over while I am still around or have it all dropped in your lap when I go." The decision was made but we did not allow David to let go completely and invited him to keep a column in the quarterly bulletins, while still doing what he really loved - singing. He had 15 regular bookings a month and he was so happy! David had a beautiful speaking voice and an even better singing one. It was no secret that David loved an audience. In this last year, he even toyed with the idea of appearing on **Australian Idol**. You can be sure that David will audition for the celestial choir.

When he came to know that he was unwell, he told me he was still hoping for a big birthday/farewell bash for his 90th - and even wanted zoom meetings arranged for different time zones worldwide with Maria Valtorta Readers. He planned them for March, a few days after his 90th birthday. He never knew how much time he had left but never stopped asking God for a few more years...but only if it was God's will.

David never got that extra time but he always hoped in his heart that he would be alive to see the canonisation of Maria Valtorta.

Abraham may have been the father of many nations, but as you can see here today, David Murray was the father of many generations during his lifetime.

To the whole Murray family, **the Maria Valtorta Readers' Group worldwide offers you all their most heartfelt condolences for the loss of David.**

And I have no doubt that they will want to give David the standing ovation he deserves.

David, here's looking at you, kid.

(Ed: Before His Ascension, Jesus assigned his 12 apostles and 70 disciples to continue His Work. Before David died, he left his apostolate to a team of four and, unknowingly, to all the **Maria Valtorta Readers' Group** worldwide to continue to spread awareness and the love of Maria Valtorta's Works. David's mission may have ended but **our MV earthly mission continues...**)