



The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His Face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
(Num. 6:24-6.)

**E-BULLETIN NO. 67 (US etc), SEPTEMBER 2012
MARIA VALTORTA READERS' GROUP**

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(Jesus to Maria): "Let us turn to the little sheep, seeking to be acquainted with their Master. It is I, and you are the staff, leading them to Me." (*The Poem of the Man-God*, Vol. 1, p. 246)

"Publish this work as it is... whoever reads it will understand..."
- Pope Pius XII (26th February 1948)

New email address: david@valtorta.org.au; Web-site: www.valtorta.org.au



"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.)

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers' Group Members in U.S and Canada,

The first two pages of this bulletin contain four new and important items, which are self-explanatory.

May God bless and keep you all,
David D Murray
Assistant convenor.

Ps. Many thanks for the prayers and good wishes concerning my health. I'm now walking fairly normally now, and may not be needing that spinal operation. Praise the Lord!! You may not know that I spent the first 60 years of my life without a left hip joint, then the following 20 with a total hip installation. Now, with the aid of a walking stick, I can walk for the first time in my life without a limp !!

URGENT APPEAL FOR SISTERS IN ZAMBIA

(This is an abbreviated repeat of an appeal emailed to members in U.S. and Canada some weeks ago.)

Last October, our Readers' Group organized a small pilgrimage of Group members from different parts of the world, to visit Italy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Maria Valtorta's death. (See a report of this visit in the Newsletter Archive - December 2011 Supp. 64 in the Readers' Group's new Website: <http://www.valtorta.org.au>)

This pilgrimage group included Sister Christine Kabumbu (A Readers' Group member for many years, with whom I stayed during a visit to Zambia a few years ago) - together with Sisters Mercy Zimba and Sabina Namfukwe - of the Sisters of the Child Jesus community in Zambia.

A few months ago, a damaging fire occurred in the convent of one of the Zambia Sisters' communities, which has caused financial hardship to the whole community of which Sister Christine is Superior. [See this link: <http://www.valtorta.org.au/Video/KabumbuConventFire.wmv>]

I have emailed Sister Christine, offering to launch an appeal to our members, for financial help to assist with the community's urgent needs. Here is part of her reply:

Dear David, firstly, we have a problem of transport. We are all relying on one vehicle which we are sharing with sisters from the other community, whose convent was burnt. A second hand car would cost about \$US 6,500.

On 1st April 2012 (Palm Sunday) the entire main block of the convent house got burnt completely with all household goods. The community from there are staying at the Generalate with us which has now become congested.

Before the house was burnt, the purchase of a new house was already on course and we have put the burnt convent rebuilding on hold, to finish purchasing the new house, put it on rent, to contribute to rebuilding of the burnt convent. (We need a lot of help with this rebuilding.)

God bless you, from Sister Christine.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider contributing to this appeal. You can send a check in \$US to **Hugh Kelly, 104 Woodham Circle, CARY NC 27513 - 3032. Phone 919-481-2318.** (Tell me when you do this.)

OR you can pay by credit card (minimum \$Aust 50.00) or by bank transfer.

If paying by Visa or Mastercard, the authorization would be processed by Craft Book Wholesalers, here in Australia. Just send me the amount, your card number (in 2 separate 8-digit emails for more security), expiry date, name on card, and your home address.

If by bank transfer, please pay into the Commonwealth Bank* Account of D D Murray: BSB: 063852 A/c No.: 1014 6374 - using Swift Code No. CTBAU2S - \$.... (*Commonwealth Bank, 31 Wray Street, Mt. Evelyn, Vic. 3796 AUSTRALIA) Please tell me when you do this.

HALF-PRICE SEPTEMBER SALE

Over-stocked with a number of items, we're offering the following at a 50% discount, during September.

(**Tell me your order**, and I'll give you a costing, including postage. Then pay as per the above instructions.)

MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER AND THE CHURCH - Her Life, Sufferings and Mission Revealing details of Mary's life and sufferings, anticipating and watching Jesus being brutally crucified 160p. Normal price \$ 18.00 **Sale Price \$ 9.00**

WHO WAS MARIA VALTORTA, AND WHAT DID SHE DO? CD Track # 31 of "Why is Mary Crying?" - the Audio Book of above book. 28m 30s. Normal price \$ 5.00 **Sale Price \$ 2.50**

MARIA VALTORTA, VICTIM SOUL - Her Sainly Life, Mission and Writings The life and works of this saintly woman, chosen by Jesus. Her writings - particularly *The Poem of the Man-God* - have become a spiritual treasure for millions of people worldwide. 72 p. Normal price \$ 10.00 **Sale Price \$ 5.00**

THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST Re-print of the "best seller" booklet abridgment of 140 pages from Volume 5 of "The Poem". A great stepping-stone and "taster". 55p. Normal price \$ 5.00 **Sale Price \$ 2.50**

THE PRAYER LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND MARY Jesus and Mary show us how THEY pray - 64 passages - with an Index Normal price \$ 3.50 **Sale Price \$ 1.75**

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - With Jesus, Mary and Joseph Extracts from *The Poem*, and other Valtorta writings. Who

better to guide us, but Jesus, Mary and Joseph. 80p. Normal
price \$ 5.00 **Sale Price \$ 2.50**

A NEW EDITION FOR THE POEM

Hang onto your hats. This year the publishers are beginning to bring out a new, 10-volume edition of *THE POEM OF THE MAN-GOD*, to be entitled *THE GOSPEL AS IT WAS REVEALED TO ME* – a title which (I understand) Jesus had originally wanted for the “Work”. The first of the new volumes should be arriving some time in October.

Now, disappointingly, the chapters in the “paired” volumes of the new edition DON'T match the chapters of each of the 5 volumes of *The Poem*. Have a look at the table below, and check if you're missing either volume 2, 3, 4 or 5 of a complete 5-volume *Poem* set. You would need to purchase THREE of the new volumes for the one you're missing – otherwise you will miss some chapters. So I strongly suggest that you complete your set of *The Poem* immediately, before my stocks are exhausted.

Chapter	REPLACE			
	POEM Vol.	GOSPEL Vol.	POEM Vol.	with GOSPEL Vols.
1		1		
78	1	↓	1	1 & 2
79		↓		
140		2		
141		↓		
159		↓		
160	2	3	2	2, 3 & 4
225		↓		
226		↓		
274		4		
275		↓		
295		↓		
296		↓		
274		↓		
275	3	5	3	4, 5 & 6
295		↓		
296		↓		
363		↓		
364		↓		
413		6		
414		↓		
432		↓		
433	4	7	4	6, 7 & 8
500		↓		
501		↓		
538		8		
539		↓		
554		↓		
555	5	9	5	8, 9 & 10
600		↓		
601		10		
652		↓		

If you haven't begun buying any of *The Poem* volumes yet, I suggest you wait till the first volumes of the new 10-volume edition begin arriving (expected in October), and start with these. Their expected price is not yet known.

A NEW AND VERY SPECIAL BOOKLET:
"THE MANY MEANINGS OF LOVE"

As many of you would know, I've been assembling booklets on different themes from Maria Valtorta's writings for many years. In recent times the idea of a selection of passages on the all-encompassing theme of LOVE has been growing in my mind. So, after some time convalescing after my bout in hospital, I decided to explore a “cherry-picking” of passages under this heading, from the General Index chapters in “A Pilgrim's Guide to Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God*”, and “A Reader's Guide to Maria Valtorta's Other Writings”

The theme LOVE embraces so many aspects - that a sub-headings list grew to a final selection of 51 - none of which I wanted to discard. So what has emerged has become what I believe to be the “cream” of all the 16 years of booklets I've produced. LOVE is the essence of all of Maria Valtorta's writings. It embraces all the virtues and good deeds, and will be a handbook of guidance for all I do for the rest of my life.

The adopted text is divided into two sets of passages: Part 1 from Maria's *The Poem of the Man-God*, and Part 2 from Maria's six other books. 104p.

Price: \$ 12.50, (Less 10% for pensioners & religious.)

(See Contents lists on the back cover of this link:

<http://www.valtorta.org.au/Newsletters/Covers'Love'MVS.pdf>)

This link firstly contains the back cover of “*Maria Valtorta, Victim Soul*”, a Readers' Group booklet which will be a most valuable contribution towards the coming/anticipated Cause for Maria's Beatification.)

THINK ABOUT THIS

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test." "Triple filter?!"

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student, let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?" "No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?" The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was considered a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

Keep this in mind the next time you are about to repeat a rumour or spread gossip.

(Anonymous)

MARIA VALTORTA AND LORENZO FERRI

(This is an article by Pietro Ferri, Lorenzo's son, concerns the book "Valtorta and Ferri", available from the Readers' Group. Lorenzo Ferri was an artist and sculptor who worked on drawings under Maria's guidance. The book includes 37 sepia-coloured portraits of Jesus, Mary and others from The Poem, plus over 200 pages with sketches of places, buildings and encounters.

The article has been translated from:

<http://www.uk.mariavaltorta.com/All-articles/Luoghi-e-personaggi/Lorenzo-Ferri>)

Lorenzo Ferri said that he came to know about Maria Valtorta by means of Father Berti, whom he met during the preparation-display of the project for the Door of St. Peter's Basilica. As they left together, walking towards the Monteverde neighborhood in Rome, he spoke about his research-studies on the Shroud of Turin and about his desire to truly know the Face of Christ.

Father Berti said to him, "There is someone who can describe that same Face, which they see every day." The artist understood he was speaking of visions, and then replied, "Look: in all modesty, I am a scholar; and moreover, I can only accept data which is reliable, data received by experiments. The [research on the] Shroud is a serious affair, but it would no longer be so if this research-data can include visions and visionaries!" Father Berti answered: "Come to Viareggio; and judge for yourself! Many who have stood before her were astonished!"

Lorenzo Ferri met Maria Valtorta in 1949 at Viareggio where the writer was living, bedridden due to paralysis. She seemed to him to be lucid, practical, insightfully intelligent – the exact opposite of a fanatic! The artist showed her a photograph of his own lifelike reconstruction of the bust of the Shroud – well appreciated by expert Shroud researchers. But from her, it receives a hardly praiseworthy review, because "...it's not like Christ's Face when she sees Him."

Ferri, overcoming irritation, asks her to describe what she sees; and then he will try to draw it. Thus an adventure begins: the artist, a skeptic who barely manages to restrain impulsivity; and Valtorta, with her authoritative and frank character – they agree to work in a particularly unique manner: sitting with a pad of paper in hand, he gives her his shoulders, so that she can follow the quick sketch and give suggestions. Finally, he fills in the rest, and then submits it for her approval.

The "dictated" illustrations were carried out over of the course of about four years and are not the simple transcription of what Maria Valtorta described. Even if Ferri "entered into the same wavelength" as her, the artist gave life, form, and ambience to the characters' own, unmistakable traits. If one of the drawings might require more time, Lorenzo Ferri completed it at his studio in Rome, in which case her criticism or approval would arrive by mail: "For the Supper, it seems to me that the environment has been

done well, but *what faces!*... But why not make the faces as was done, here at my place, in 1950? Moreover, I only halfway like the resurrection of Lazarus – so naked, whereas he was covered in bandages. That Face of Jesus is really handsome, gentle, expressive – exactly as I remember Him during the (rare) moments when He was happy, serene, prayerful" (Letter of Maria Valtorta to Lorenzo Ferri, July 21, 1953).

One day, while entering Valtorta's room, Ferri finds her with an extremely white face. She explains that she saw Jesus – in the courtyard (where she could not go) – and He was showing His approval by nodding in front of Ferri's pastel portraits of the Apostles – having been placed outside in order to make the fixative dry – approving, with the exception of John, drawn with an excessively strong-willed chin. Without hesitation, the artist cut up the paper, and redrew the chin.

The meeting of Lorenzo Ferri and Maria Valtorta was a relationship between strong personalities that are not easily influenced; personalities that are dialectical; neither one of them lacking reservations; which led, ultimately, to sincere ties of friendship, reinforced by commonly shared religious convictions. In the letter that Valtorta wrote to Ferri on October 23, 1954, there is a reproach for not having become more alive; but Ferri was again absorbed in his studies of the Shroud, about which precisely Maria Valtorta's initial comment – "Professor, study better" [that is, his first work didn't match Christ's real Face sufficiently] – had entirely overturned all the knowledge he had acquired [which made him work harder and achieve better results].

There exists a correspondence between Valtorta's descriptions and Ferri's studies of the Shroud, for which the artist spent years of research on the cloth and three stages of scientific testing for a [lifelike, accurate] plastic reconstruction [or rendition]. One of the sketches he made under the guidance of Valtorta's dictation made him realize that he had, right there under his eyes, a result bearing a complete resemblance to the one that had cost him years of effort and experimentation to make. [That is, after a quickly drawn sketch, during which she dictated which changes to make, he was able to draw the equivalent level of accuracy and detail that he could only achieve after years of Shroud research].

Ferri saw his encounter with Valtorta as being like the *keystone* [or *cornerstone*] of his Shroud research of already twenty years and already too closely bound-up, until that time, to undisputed and universally accepted knowledge. She was a part or member of that host of people – (which the artist called, "perfect opposites") – who, forcing him to focus on a problem, was always bringing him to more and more in-depth, scientific testing. For his part, Ferri was a true witness of Valtorta throughout those years, of which the personal letters and the artistic illustrations are a living reflection.

Pietro Ferri, Association President
Lorenzo Ferri Cultural Center

LETTERS

(From Australia unless stated otherwise)

The Valtorta Books

I often think what a wonderful book *The Poem of the Man-God* is. I have re-read it for a second time and find it

absolutely fascinating. I have learnt so much about Jesus' life on earth, and more importantly, I have learnt so much about Jesus' teachings. All religious should read it so that the misinformation that is presented can be corrected.

I listen to our parish priest give a sermon and in it he speculates on various details, and I think it's all there in *The Poem*, if only the priest would read the books.

Since I have been reading *The Poem* I have found it difficult to read anything else. The beautifully written prose, the clarity of ideas, the exquisite choice of words - neither pretentious or vague but precise in meaning - make it difficult to read anything less perfect. One cannot doubt it was dictated by God.

When I read Azariah's dictations to Maria, I am fascinated by the compound and complex sentences that require extensive concentration, to not lose the meaning. The level of intelligence required to achieve this is amazing. The lateral thinking around worn out interpretations makes reading this book a sheer joy. Time is always a problem, so I am looking forward to retiring so I can spend time immersed in literature. I have this dream that I might open a religious bookshop in Cairns when I retire. One is always dreaming!!!

I need to express my gratitude for your promotion of the books. Without your efforts I may never have had the opportunity to read these books.

MARIE FITZGERALD, Cape Tribulation, Qld.

It has just really struck me this evening while reading the national Catholic newspaper - we Maria Valtorta readers have the answer to the 'New Evangelisation' that both Pope John Paul II and now Pope Benedict have been calling for. We have at hand the excitement and joy of the Gospels! Have you realised this?

Most Christians have been so accustomed to reading/hearing Scripture that there is no joy received anymore. I know of no (other) Christians, in the past or the present, who are absolutely as spellbound and lost for words on reading Scripture as I have known (us Valtorta readers) to be with *The Poem*. Have you?

GWEN STORY, Taradale, New Zealand.

I feel privileged that the Lord has allowed these volumes to come into my life. In the mornings, I try always to have a quiet time consisting of prayer, and then I read a passage from the books. It helps me to start the day, and in principle to start a new passage in my life

BOYD GILLON, Gorleston, Norfolk, U.K.

I have just finished my 5th or 6th reading of *The Poem*, and am feeling lost. I want to wait a while before starting again. It is so wonderful, and we are so blessed by it.

PAMELA NASSUATO, Baxter, Vic.

I am so blessed to have found your site. I will read the *Notebooks* when I have finished the *Poem* volumes.

It is so wonderful there is a site in Australia. An amazing Christian Mystic... introduced me to the works of Maria Valtorta, and I am learning so much more than I have ever learned in so many years reading the Gospels.

CARMEL HANLON, Fassifern, NSW.

I wanted you to know that mom (Elenor Sayers) passed away. She loved the POEM books, and read them

at least 3 times though. She also gave copies to us kids, and encouraged many to read them as well.

KAREN CROWE, Glendale Az., USA

The Gospel Meditated Rosaries 4xCD Set

Thank you for making these Rosary CDs. I have recently had a CD player put in my car, and am listening to them each time I travel - which is every day. They are really beautiful, and you and the people praying with you have done such a good job. They help me transcend the mud being splashed around our world today...

MARILYN FINNIGAN, Templestowe, Vic.

I am reading *The Poem* for the first time through, and am now on Volume 2. I read all of Maria Valtorta's Autobiography. Simply amazing!

STEPHEN AUSTIN, St. Mary's Kansas, USA.

The Web-site

Checked out your web site. Well done.

FR. G.R., NSW.

The Bulletins

Thanks for the latest bulletin.

Ref. *Paul to the Romans*, pp. 60-1 (see below), I am assured my muslim, buddhist, hindu and pagan friends have a chance to meet Jesus in Heaven as long as they follow their conscience and the natural moral law implanted in all. I love your bulletins. JOHN LEE, Glen Iris, Vic.

"...Either punishment or reward will be given with just measure to the Jew as to the Greek, that is, to the believer in the true God, as to he who is a Christian outside of the trunk of the eternal Life, as to the heretic, and as to the one who follows other revealed religions or his own one, if he is a creature to whom every religion is unknown.

"A reward to whoever follows justice. Punishment to whoever does evil. Because every man is endowed with a soul and with reason, and because of these, he has within himself what is sufficient to be a guide and a law to him..."

(Lessons on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, p. 61)

† RIP †

Please pray for the soul of Elenor Sayers,
mother of Karen Crowe of Glendale Az., USA,
who died on 9th July 2012, aged 84 years.

Maria Valtorta Readers' Group

This group is a non-profit organisation, which retails publications of Maria Valtorta's writings, and offers other supporting materials, to its members and to other interested persons. Bulletins are sent to members every 3 months. A subscription of \$12.00 per year (a little extra if mailed overseas, and no charge for priests and religious) is requested. (E-mail copies of the bulletins and supplements, convenient for Valtorta readers outside Australia, are now free.) A Catalogue of books and other items is available on request.

The writings of Maria Valtorta are considered by many to be among the most wonderful gifts given by Jesus to His followers and would-be followers in this century. The Readers' Group has much material available which supports their authenticity as Private Revelation. If you receive just a fraction of the knowledge, understanding and inspiration from Maria's revelations on the lives of Jesus and Mary, as testified by our readers, you will be very blessed. May God inspire us all, in our journeys to holiness.

[The material in this publication is not intended to represent the opinion of the Church. The editor affirms submission to the official judgement of the Church regarding the information contained herein.]