MARIA VALTORTA

Little John Violet of the Cross

Maria was born in Caserta, Italy, on March 14th, 1897. Maria was Giuseppe Valtorta and Iside Fioravanti’s only child; her parents came from Lombardy. Maria's mother taught French and was more rigid and severe than her father, who was more affectionate and mild. At the age of 18 months, the family first settled in Faenza and then moved to Milano. When Maria was 4, her mother sent her to the Orsoline nuns. Her grandmother Josephine used to take her to kindergarten. Maria was almost 7 when her grandmother died. Shortly after, that same year, on March 18th 1904, she received the Sacrament of the Confession, and in October she began to attend elementary school in the Marcelline nuns institute. She was good at school thanks to her parents' help, especially at Italian, with the exception of Math. Maria received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the age of 8, namely on May 30th, 1905 by Cardinal Andrea Ferrari. Later the Valtortas moved to Voghera when she was 10. There, Maria attended local schools and continued to improve her French knowledge at Casteggio, where she also received the Sacrament of the First Communion in October of 1908. At 12, her mother sent her to the Bianconi college in Monza, held by the Sisters of Maria Bambina. She failed her third year, having previously changed course to a more technical one. She stayed in college until her fourth year, until February 23rd, 1913. In the meantime her father Joseph had become ill and consequently retired. So, in the same year the Valtortas moved again to Florence and during WWI, Maria was a volunteer of the Samaritan Nurses. She served in the Military Hospital in Florence for 18 months, but then had to stop because of her own health problems. In that period she faced problems like every young person does. The engagement to Robert did not continue because of her mother’s will, but mainly because of the boy’s death at war. Her friendship with Mario could have led to a wedding, but again her mother stood in the way, and thus determined the failure.

Maria’s desire to become a nun was suddenly stopped when on March 17th, 1920 a young crook beat her kidneys with an iron bar, so that prevented her from pursuing her vocation. Maria was convalescent for three months and then because of her mother's insistence, who looked unfavourably on Mario, she was obliged to go to Montecatini first and then Reggio Calabria for a total period of two years. After going back to Florence, in October 1924, the Valtortas moved to Viareggio. Maria read the "Story of a Soul" by St. Therese of the Child Jesus, and later, on January 28th, 1925 offered herself as a victim to the Merciful Love. In December 1929, we see her very assiduous as Delegate of culture for young people in Catholic Action. Another important step for her was when she offered herself as a victim to the Divine Justice on July 1st, 1931. Meanwhile, Maria had taken the Vows of “Chastity, Poverty and Obedience”. Since January 4th, 1933, Maria Valtorta could no longer move freely on her legs, because of her progressive disease. A year later, in April 1934, her physical condition forced her to bed. Starting from May 24th, 1935 Maria was since then helped by Marta Diciotti that stood by her side with lovingly tenderness for all the rest of her life. That same year on June, 30th her good father Giuseppe passed away. In 1942 Father Romualdo Migliorini entered the Valtorta house, to be her spiritual guidance for 4 years. At the request of Father Migliorini, Maria wrote her "Autobiography", and on April 23rd, 1943, Good Friday, Maria began to write the "Dictations" of Jesus. On October 4th, 1943 her mother Iside also died. Maria continued her work as a writer until 1951. From year 1956 onwards she had further physical deterioration that almost led her to death. Maria Valtorta died at 10.35 on October 12th, 1961. Out of her 65 years, she spent 28 of them in bed being sick.

In 1944 Jesus told her to put in writing:
"How happy you’ll be when you’ll realize that you are in my world forever, getting there, from the living earthly world, without even noticing, passing from vision to reality, like a little child who dreams of his mum, and wakes up held tight at her mum’s chest. I’ll do so with you."