

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
August 15, 2000**

**By Father Charles Bowes**

**Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
Luke 1:39-56**

## *In Mary we see the human set free*

After somewhat of a hiatus in devotion after the Second Vatican Council, interest in the mother of God is riding high, not only with Catholics, but with Protestants.

In this past year the acclaimed Protestant author, Kathleen Norris, published a book called *Meditations on Mary*, and no less a journal in the Calvinist tradition, *Theology Today* devoted a whole issue to Mary, calling her the first theologian.

Mary is being discovered anew because she is inextricably united to the mystery of God's dealing with humanity and our history. She is the only being, simply human, who has totally surrendered herself as we are all called to do, to the will of God. Yet she did that in such a way that her closeness to God did not overpower her or annihilate her freedom. God chose to make himself dependent upon her cooperation, subject to her response. As the novelist Mary Gordon writes, "...in Mary, mother and queen, we see enfleshed in a human form that touches our most ancient longings, the promise of salvation, of deliverance, through flesh, from the burdens of flesh." In Mary's death she says her final "Yes" to God; she surrenders herself totally to his will, as she did at the Annunciation. As she was

overshadowed then, so her cooperation in this last moment unleashed the resurrection gift of her Son to take possession of all she is, her body and soul, transforming her in eternal glory. Hence we celebrate today the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. We give praise to God for so great a gift.

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