Summary

The gradual reemergence of Mary as a preeminent member of the church began to take formidable shape and scope in the last few years. Because the resurfacing was happening in the context of a balanced theology and piety which attended to scriptural, patristic and biblical roots as well as to pastoral and ecumenical implications, it was particular cause for celebration. It was also the primary impetus for gathering a community of scholars to share their significant research with the wider community. If our veneration of Mary is authentic, then we can hope for a new springtime of evangelization, and progress in the cause of Christian unity. „My soul glorifies the Lord”, said Mary in the Magnificat. What Mary did on this occasion, she does everyday: when we praise her, love her, honor her, or give to her, God is praised, God is loved, God is honored; we give to God with Mary through Mary, as Mary and in Mary.