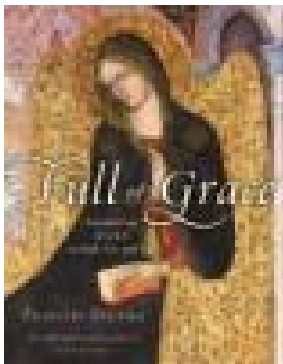


Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (<https://www.ncronline.org>)

April 15, 2011 at 9:32am

Goddess Cults and Mary

by Arthur Jones



In *Full of Grace: Encountering Mary in Faith, Art and Life*, Judith Dupre writes:

?The idea that Marian piety was the natural outgrowth of ancient goddess cults of fertility and motherhood, with the early Christian Church absorbing many Greco-Roman mythological elements and replacing them, in effect, with Mary, has been a subject of controversy for centuries: ignored, disputed, championed??

Comments, anyone?



In The Marian Blog, *NCR* books editor Arthur Jones invites a discussion on

envisioning Mary, the mother of Jesus, in 21st-century terms.

Jones has been a Catholic journalist since before the Second Vatican Council. This month, Paulist Press releases his latest book, *Mary, a Mother Waiting, Raising the Messiah*. Jones describes his book as an exploration of the mother-son relationship of Mary and Jesus during the "hidden years," until she eases him front and center into his ministry at Cana.

You follow The Marian Blog and news about *Mary, a Mother Waiting, Raising the Messiah* on Facebook ([tinyurl.com/Mary-A-Mother-Waiting](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/Mary-A-Mother-Waiting)) and Twitter (twitter.com/amotherwaiting).

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