

# Changes

by Bill Consiglio

My spiritual life is changing, it has become more:  
Eclective, which means my growing faith has tapped  
into different thought-forms, perspectives,  
and even other religious traditions.

Expansive, which means my growing faith has  
broadened me to beauty and nature and  
appreciation of the goodness  
and kindness found in all people.

Inclusive, means that I have softened  
the sharp boundaries in my thinking  
about people and practices which  
once I excluded and judged.

Authentic, which means I have embraced and accepted  
the truth about myself,  
my feelings and my life,  
even if they contradict previous convictions,  
which once I denied or concealed.

Transparent means I have become  
much more willing, fearless, and confident  
about revealing the truth to myself,  
and about myself to others.

Loving means that I am allowing myself  
to experience the vulnerability of  
loving others, forgiving, and receiving  
love more often.

Devotionally I have become much more  
simple, less complicated or polemical;  
more spontaneously childlike;  
focusing on a faith of trust, hope and love  
which I have for each Person of the Trinity.

We live our lives and pray our lives,  
not nicely, not neatly, not often clearly or orderly,  
but always authentically.

Our biography, with all its ups and downs,  
is our spirituality. We have met God in our living.  
There is space in God's heart for all things;  
our confusion, indifference, betrayal, contradiction,  
our many, many failures, and even our sin.

The trouble with my former religious thinking  
is the way it complicated my life and my  
relationship to God with so many peripherals,  
some of which were quite attractive;  
but leading me far from the essentials.  
The richness of my former religious thinking  
was also its most potentially misleading,  
even deceiving seduction.

I ask, was Jesus eclectic, expansive,

inclusive, authentic, transparent,  
loving and devotionally childlike?  
“In this world let us be like Jesus.”

1 John 4:17

“That the body of Christ may be built up  
until we all reach unity in the faith  
and in the knowledge of the Son of God,  
and become mature, attaining to  
the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:13