

## September Reflection

Evolutionary faith works in different ways for different people. It will gradually have its effect, according to O'Murchu, on the way religious services are conducted. Over time, religious leaders will learn to speak from within a larger world, and will often bring natural



events - the movement of the stars, the changing of the seasons, the threats to the environment - into their spiritual perspective. Individuals may find themselves deeply in tune with the natural rather than with the supernatural.

However, the need for spirituality and prayer remains ambiguous and a matter of choice. We will never cease to find ourselves deep in the sea of the unknown, not really knowing if speaking human words into the great mystery makes sense or not. Spirituality can be helped by metaphor here, moving from the known to the unknown.

We may have had a good experience of a human mother. We then think of the earth as "mother" or even the Holy Mysterious itself as "Mother" or divine womb. Our God may seem personal or impersonal or extrapersonal. What matters is that we take the broadest possible perspective, and find enlightenment in our meditations. Teilhard de Chardin said: "You are not a human being in search of a spirituality experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience." It's a perspective worth considering.

### Boundless Sea - Looking Ahead

Boundless Sea of Love and Energy,  
our future and our God,  
may all your dreams for us come true:  
your steady motherlike imaginings,  
and your fatherly hopes,  
your creative purposes evident everywhere in the world.  
Guide us to our truest selves,  
co-creators with you of this environment.  
Persuade us to be worthy inheritors

of the astonishing evolving reality in which we live:  
appreciators of the daytime in all its colors and aromas,  
admirers of the heavens at night,  
reverent caretakers of our generous green earth,  
respectful of everything alive –  
especially of our fellow humans  
in all their bewildering diversity.  
May it be so.

--William Cleary from *Prayers to an Evolutionary God*