What kind of God do you believe in?

There is only one God, but an endless variety of human misunderstandings of God. Our ideas will always be inadequate, but can at least be healthy, that is, enable us to grow. To achieve this health, we must move:

1. From a god we can understand, possess and dispense to others to a God of infinite surprises
2. From an elderly male god, to a God who is above all our limitations

3. From a religion in which beliefs, duties and worship hold first place to a religion in which a love relationship with God holds first place
4. From a religion in which we must constantly abase ourselves before God to a religion in which self-denial and self-love work together to help us become "fully alive"

5. From a commercial relationship with a God whose rewards can be earned by doing right things to a love relationship with God who is pure gift
6. From a relationship in which we determine exactly what part God shall be allowed to play in our lives to a love relationship of total giving
7. From a God who demands that we bridge the gap between us to a God who always takes the first step and comes to us

8. From a world in which meaning comes from fulfilling duties to a world in which meaning comes from the sum total of all the loves of our lives
9. From a God greatly concerned with glory and majesty to a God not threatened by anything human beings can do, but caring passionately what they do to each other, to themselves and to their community

10. From a God whose glory is to be found in our obedience to a God whose glory is to be found in our growth
11. From an angry God, not to a God of soft love, but to a God who, out of love, is never afraid to challenge us to grow

12. From prayer which consists solely in words to a prayer in which our whole lives seek to express our desire for God
13. From a God about whom we use many words to a God whose greatness and mystery reduce us to silent wonder

(Bp Geoffrey Robinson: "Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church" 2007)