



We began by wanting to 'fix' *them*. You know *them* – those who bring their children for sacraments, show up looking to be married, come to us to bury their dead – *them* who come when they need something. *Them* are not those we would think of as 'real' members of our communities, joining us every Sunday for Eucharist ...

And then, along the way, as we journeyed together, through dialogue, reflection, prayer, and maybe a little influence of the Holy Spirit, we began to realize that *them* didn't need fixing at all. *Them* – those we considered disengaged - were exactly where they should be, as God's people usually are. It was us, those of us gathering to plan this conference, who needed the fixing. The people who have been called to minister to this people of God, we realized needed to see with new eyes and respond with new vision. We needed ... transfiguration.

Once we understood that we in ministry may need to be transformed, it was easy to agree on who could help us achieve our goals in this conference. Dr. Reginald Bibby is a leader in Canada when it comes to monitoring religious trends. Author of twelve best-selling books, Dr. Bibby has used his research on church trends to dialogue with many about what religion looks like in 21st century Canada, and why it is that a people who are spiritually hungry are not coming to the Church to be fed. Dr. Bibby holds the Board of Governors Chair in the Department of Sociology at the University of Lethbridge, where he has taught since 1975

Joining him as keynote was Carol Kuzmochka. In addition to being the Director of the Centre for Ministry Formation, Carol Kuzmochka is a theology professor at St. Paul University and is presently working on her Doctor of Ministry in Adult Faith Formation. She is a long-time member of the National Advisory Committee on Adult Catechesis with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and is particularly interested in the theological implications of why people seem to be unable/unwilling to be more committed to and engaged in their faith and their faith communities, particularly in terms of spirituality and catechesis.