

Educator, theologian and prolific author and guest lecturer Thomas H. Groome, who has contributed the most widely used religion curricula in Catholic schools and parishes across the country for the past 20 years, will be among the speakers at VOTF's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference in Boston later this year. He will address attendees at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel. The conference begins the previous Friday afternoon, Sept. 14, at the hotel. [Click here](#) for a conference agenda.



Groome presently is chairman of the Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Department and professor of theology and religious education at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. He joined Boston College as an assistant professor of theology in 1976. His primary areas of interest and research are in the history, theory and practice of religious education, pastoral ministry and practical theology.

Among his books, the classic and foundational text *Christian Religious Education: Sharing our Story and Vision* is the most widely used textbook of religious education in Catholic and Protestant schools of theology, seminaries and pastoral institutes worldwide. His influential contribution to Catholic early education has come primarily through several curricula on which he was the primary author or editor. These include *God with Us* and *Coming to Faith* for K-8 and the *Credo Series* for adolescents.

Groome's other books include his most recent, *What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life*, which lays out the foundational convictions that ground Catholic identity in Christian faith; *Educating for Life*, a comprehensive philosophy of Catholic education in the home, parish and school; and *Sharing Faith*, a far-reaching approach to religious education and pastoral ministry that received Catholic Press Association's 1992 First Place Award.

He has also written more than two hundred articles that have appeared in scholarly journals and popular publications on religious education and pastoral ministries, presented more than a thousand lectures over the past thirty-five years at professional conferences and universities worldwide and been interviewed on major media ranging from CNN, PBS and major U.S. television networks to the BBC and RTE.

Groome has received the Christian Culture Gold Medal Award from Assumption University, National Association of Parish Religious Educators Emmaus Award, National Conference of Catechetical Leaders Annual Award and the Boston College Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Master's Teaching Award.

Born in County Kildare, Ireland, Groome completed his seminary education at St. Patrick's College, Carlow, Ireland. He received his master's in religious education from Fordham University and doctorate in theology and education from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University Teachers College, all three in New York.