

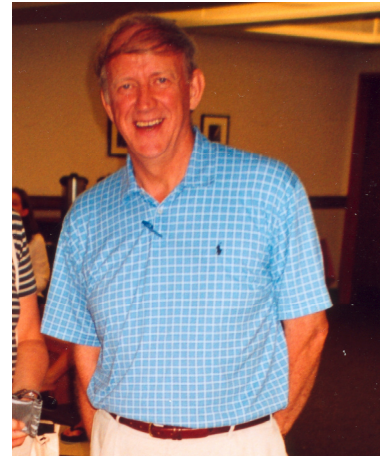
Professor Thomas Groome

Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College. Chair of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry.

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Boston College: www.bc.edu/stm



Short background

Appointed Assist. Prof. Theology Dept., Boston College, 1976

Appointed Assoc. Prof. Theology Dept., Boston College, 1982

Appointed Full Professor of Theology, Boston College, 1992

Academic Background

- Completed seminary education, St. Patrick's College, Carlow, Ireland (1968)
- MA in Religious Education, Fordham Univ. (1973)
- Doctorate in Theology and Education, Union Theological Seminary and
- Columbia University Teachers College, New York (1975)

Honors and Achievements

- Member of Catholic Advisory Council to Obama presidential campaign, Sum/Fall '08
- The Christian Culture Gold Medal Award, Assumption University, Windsor, 2006
- National Association of Parish Religious Educators, Emmaus Award, 2000.
- National Conference of Catechetical Leaders Annual Award, 1997.
- Boston College, Graduate School A&S, Masters Teaching Award, 2007
- *Sharing Faith* received First Place Award from the Catholic Press Association, 1992
- *God is Here* received First Place Award for Children's Books, CPR, 2003
- *Christian Religious Education is most widely used textbook of religious education in theologates, seminaries and pastoral institutes, both Catholic and Protestant. Its translations are used widely throughout the world.
- Past President of Association of Professors and Researchers of Religious Education

Special contributions to the theory of RE; some notes about your personal intentions, criticism of other positions or approaches, in short what you want to change and develop.

My life-work has been most identified with my efforts to articulate an approach to religious education that I term *Shared Christian (or Jewish, etc.) Praxis*. It can be summarized as a pedagogy that encourages people to "bring their lives to Faith (whatever religion is under study) and Faith to their lives." I've written a number of books about this approach (e.g. *Christian Religious Education*, 1980), *Sharing Faith* 1991), and *Will There Be Faith* (2011). However, it can be summarized as simply as "life to Faith to life."

I have also implemented this approach in at least two major children's curricula (*God With us* and *Coming to Faith* – both from W. H. Sadlier) and am now writing a curriculum for adolescents entitled *The Credo Series* from Veritas Pub. Co.

Originally (35 years ago at dissertation time) my work was much influenced by Paulo Freire in pedagogy, Gustavo Gutierrez in theology, Jurgen Habermas and Hans Gadamer in philosophy. These influences have continued. As a Christian religious educator, I'm deeply convinced that educating in Christian faith should be emancipatory for the person, the community, and the society. It should enable people to grow in holiness/wholeness of life and to contribute to the common good of society – toward the reign of God.

Research and interest fields (short description and publications on each of them)

The theory and practice of religious education (more: www.bc.edu/stm)

Current projects (short summary)

To launch my new book *Will There Be Faith..* I see this as a serious question and the answer cannot be taken for granted – as positive. Essentially I say that “it all depends” – on what faith we propose, how we propose it, and to what ends.

Bibliography (Complete bibliography available through DREPM website www.bc.edu/stm and hit on “Faculty and Staff.”)

Books

Will There be Faith, forthcoming, Summer 2011, HarperOne: San Francisco

Reclaiming Catholicism (ed.), Orbis Press: Maryknoll, NY, 2010

Horizons and Hopes: The Future of Religious Education, Editor with Harold Daly Horell, New York: Paulist Press, 2003

What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life, Harper: San Francisco, 2002

Educating for Life: A Spiritual Vision for Every Teacher and Parent. New York: Crossroads, 2000

Empowering Catechetical Leaders, Editor with Michael Corso, Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association, 1999

Sharing Faith: A Comprehensive Approach to Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Language for a Catholic Church. Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1991, 1995.

Christian Religious Education: Sharing our Story and Vision. San Fran: Harper, 1980.

Religion Curricula:

General Editor of *Credo Series*, a curriculum for adolescents from Veritas, 2011

Primary author of *God With Us* religion curriculum (K to 8), Sadlier, 1984.

Primary author of *Coming to Faith* religion curriculum (K to 8), Sadlier, 1989.

Primary author of *New and Revised Edition of Coming to Faith* religion curriculum (K to 6), Sadlier, 1995.

Note: These three curricula, over past 20 years, have been most widely used religion curricula in Catholic schools and parishes of USA.

God is Here When Bad Things Happen, with Martha Moss, Boston: Pauline Books, 2002

Essays:

Author of some 180 articles that have appeared in scholarly journals and popular publications on religious education and pastoral ministry. Complete bibliography available through DREPM website www.bc.edu/stm and hit on “Faculty and Staff.”

Video and Audio:

What Makes Us Catholic, a series of nine half hour videos and audio cassettes from Benziger/RCL, 2006

Public Lectures

In past 35 years made over 1000 presentations, including keynote addresses at all the major conferences of religious educators in North America.

Guest lecturer at many major universities, including: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Emory, Chicago, Claremont, Notre Dame, Boston U., Georgetown, Villanova, Fordham, etc.

Lectured widely beyond the US, including Canada, Ireland, England, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Jamaica, Lithuania, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Peru, and Ecuador.

Media Work

Have appeared on many local and national TV channels and radio programs including CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, Fox News, BBC, RTE, PBS.

8. Other information

I'm the father of Ted Griffith Groome, who turned ten in January 2011 (I got a late start in parenting). My spouse is Dr. Colleen Griffith, Assoc.Prof. Practical Theology and Spirituality, Boston College.