On Tuesday 17 May around 50 Catholic Education staff from Rockhampton, Clermont and Mackay schools and colleges, along with staff from the Catholic Education Office, attended the Professor Thomas Groome presentation in Mackay.

Professor Groome is currently Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, USA and his primary areas of interest and research are history, theory and practice of religious education, pastoral ministry and practical theology. “Well known in the field of Religious Education, this was a wonderful opportunity for staff in Catholic Education to hear firsthand from an international speaker of renown,” said Di-Anne Rowan Assistant Director: Mission, who coordinated Thomas Groome’s visit, Professor Groome’s publications include his most recent book *Catholic Spiritual Practices: Treasures Old and New, and Will There Be Faith: A New Vision for Education and Growing Disciples.*

Tom Groome was born in County Kildare, Ireland and holds the equivalent of an M.Divinity from St Patrick’s Seminary in Carlow, Ireland, an MA from Fordham University and doctoral degree in religious education from the Union Theological Seminary/Columbia University. He is also the director of the Summer Institute at the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.

Comments regarding the day were very positive; “Tom Groome refreshed our understanding of his ‘life to Faith to life’ approach for Christian Religious Education and offered new insights into a contemporary, holistic approach to teaching Christian beliefs and values, suggesting that, as educators in faith, we have a responsibility for the whole curriculum which encompasses developing relationships with all stakeholders and modeling everything we do on the example and teaching of the historical Jesus. His presentation was practical, engaging and challenging.”

The day was facilitated by Dr Philomena Billington, an educator and leader with over 43 years’ experience in Catholic and Government education across 5 dioceses and 4 states of Australia.

Pictured above from left; Di-Anne Rowan, Assistant Director: Mission, Catholic Education Office, Professor Thomas Groome and Dr Phil Billington