



University
of Victoria



Religious Diversity, Catholic Schooling and Pope Francis

Graham McDonough

Thursday, January 9

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

The Catholic Church is often perceived as a *command hierarchy*, where the pope and bishops issue teachings to lay Catholics, expecting alignment and obedience. In this presentation, I offer an example that disrupts this perception by reversing its order. I argue that in his 2013 document *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis speaks of ecumenical and interfaith relations in ways that align with Catholic schools' (1) already decades-long practices of serving non-Catholic, non-Christian, and non-religious students, and (2) their standing as institutions that encourage inter-religious dialogue for promoting justice and peace.

Graham McDonough is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education, where he teaches courses in Philosophy and Anthropology of Education. His research examines how Catholic schools consider the role of the laity and teach topics that are controversial among Catholics. He is the author of *Beyond Obedience and Abandonment: Toward a Theory of Dissent in Catholic Education* (2012).

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