Dialogue and Diversity Conference
St. Thomas More College
February 27 – 28, 2015

Friday Evening
6:30 – 7:30 pm  Registration
7:30 – 9:00 pm  Greetings
Dr. Terrence Downey, President, St. Thomas More College

Keynote Address
Introduction by Dr. Carl Still, Dean, St. Thomas More College

Dr. Catherine Cornille, Newton College Alumnae Chair of Western Culture, Boston College
Possibilities and Limits of Interreligious Dialogue
In the course of the past decades, interreligious dialogue has taken different forms, from participation in ritual practices of one's religious neighbors to collaboration in social and communal projects, from exchanges between monks or spiritual leaders to advanced theological reflection on and learning from the other tradition. Each of these dialogues presents its own possibilities and challenges. In her keynote address, Dr. Cornille will focus primarily on the understanding of dialogue as mutual learning leading to religious growth. She will discuss the various types of theological or religious learning which might take place between religions, while also pointing to the limits of such learning.

9:00 pm  Wine and Cheese Reception (Atrium)

Saturday
8:00 – 9:00 am  Registration
9:00 – 10:15 am  Session I – Ecumenical Dialogue
Session Chair – Dr. Darren Dahl, Department of Religion and Culture, St. Thomas More College

Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, All Saints Cathedral College, Edmonton
Let Us Love One Another: Foundations of Spiritual Ecumenism in the Ecclesiology of Sergei Bulgakov
Dr. Sharman will explore the conciliar claim that spiritual ecumenism is the soul of the ecumenical movement, reflecting on this both theologically and epistemologically. His vehicle for doing so will be an in-depth engagement with the Russian Orthodox theologian Sergei Bulgakov (1871-1944). The benefits of this presentation will be twofold: first, we will be introduced to the surprisingly prescient thought and career of Bulgakov, who is an underappreciated resource for ecumenical consideration. Second, it will provide a means of understanding and encouraging the ‘spiritual turn’ in the ecumenical movement by grounding it firmly upon the bedrock of a creative and compelling ecclesiology.
Julien Hammond, Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations, Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

**Receiving Spiritual Gifts: Mining the International Dialogue Between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Roman Catholics**

This presentation will explore spiritual ecumenism gleaned from the nearly 40-year dialogue between Roman Catholics and the Christian Church and their benefit for the ecumenical movement today. Hammond will survey statements, published working papers, and other essays produced by individual members of the dialogue and consider the group's working methodology as vehicles to understanding the particular spiritual gifts present, emerging and exchanged between the two churches. He will argue that the ongoing dialogue between the Christian Church and the Roman Catholic Church is still a largely untapped resource within the ecumenical movement today and that Catholics and Disciples generally have not paid sufficient attention to the spiritual treasures present in each other's churches nor to the common treasure of the ongoing dialogue between them, to the detriment of both churches.

10:15 – 10:30 am Break

10:30 – 11:45 am Session II – Interreligious Dialogue

Session Chair – Dr. John Meehan, SJ, President, Campion College, University of Regina

Dr. Alisha Pomazon, Department of Religion and Culture, St. Thomas More College

**Identity, Education, and Dialogue: Interreligious Dialogue and the Semiotics of Embodiment**

Dr. Pomazon will focus on the hermeneutics of revelation and the reading of scripture in order to answer questions concerning the relation of dialogue to questions of identity and education as seen in both Catholic and Jewish texts. In doing so, she will apply Randi Rashkover's theory of the semiotics of embodiment in order to examine the methodology for textual study that is often at the basis of Jewish and Catholic texts on interreligious dialogue. Since these texts often stress the similarities and difference between these scriptural traditions, these traditions themselves become the basis for identity and education for both sides of the dialogue. She will investigate how these texts operate in the formation of identity, education and dialogue by looking at commonality and diversity in the Jewish and Catholic ideas of identity, education, and dialogue.

Dr. Brenda A. Anderson, Department of Women's and Gender Studies and Department of Religious Studies, Luther College, University of Regina

**Considerations for Interreligious Dialogue: Why Identities, Motivations and Processes Matter**

This presentation traces the historical development of religious identity, motivations and processes in interreligious dialogue in the Christian-Muslim context. Dr. Anderson will examine the theology of dialogue through the categories of exclusivism, inclusivism and pluralism. The intention is to show how the historical context before, during and after World War II, shifted notions of religious self and religious other within Christianity. Anderson will argue that two new nomenclatures should be added to the theology of dialogue to capture this shift. By drawing on Christian and Muslim scholars, she will illustrate the contributions to a fifth typology of dialogue. Differentiating between the motivations for dialogue highlights the crucial need to develop new understandings, new typologies and new processes to integrate hybrid identities in our dialogical endeavours.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 pm  
**Keynote Address**  
Introduction by Dr. Mary Ann Beavis, Department of Religion and Culture, St. Thomas More College

Dr. Eileen Schuller, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University  
*Some Developments in Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Canada since Nostra Aetate*  
Dr. Schuller will survey some of the significant features in Jewish-Christian dialogue as it has developed in Canada since the publication of *Nostra Aetate*. In Canada, the most well-known and long-term dialogue groups have developed in major cities with a large Jewish population (Toronto, Montreal); perhaps less well-known are the significant and diverse types of dialogue that are centred in other cities (Saskatoon, Calgary) and in areas with a smaller Jewish population (the Atlantic provinces). Distinctive to Canada is the tripartite dialogue on a national level of the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation (CCJ). Schuller will analyze and attempt to articulate some of the distinctive features of dialogue as it has developed in Canada.

2:15 – 2:30 pm  
**Break**

2:30 – 3:45 pm  
**Session III – Implications of Dialogue**  
Session Chair – Dr. John Liptay, Department of Philosophy, St. Thomas More College

Hector Acero Ferrer, Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto  
*Dignitatis Humanae and Nostra Aetate: The Reconstruction of Catholicism's Collective Memory*  
While some conciliar documents, such as *Gaudium et Spes*, are definitely outward looking, attempting to reframe the role of the Church in the modern, industrialized world, other documents are predominantly inward looking, such as *Lumen Gentium*, reinterpreting the Church’s internal narratives. Ferrer will argue that *Dignitatis Humanae* and *Nostra Aetate*, appearing to fit within the former category, are a serious attempt to reconstruct the internal narrative of Catholicism, providing contemporary Christians with the tools to understand past and future developments of their own cultural imaginary. Is it possible to map the function that Vatican II has played in Catholicism with the integrating/subversive function of ideology and utopia, providing a reframed narrative for the Church? Ferrer will attempt to develop this mapping by exploring the reconstruction of the internal Church narrative in the documents *Nostra Aetate* and *Dignitatis Humanae*.

Dr. Graham McDonough, Faculty of Education, University of Victoria  
*The Joy of Dialogue in an Intercultural World: Educational Implications from Evangelii Gaudium*  
Dr. McDonough contends that Pope Francis’s exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* signals openness to an intercultural framework. It attempts to retain the best features of *Unitatis Redintegratio* and *Nostra Aetate*, while simultaneously addressing their limitations regarding the relationship between dialogue and proclamation. Since Francis proposes that Catholic persons and institutions can present themselves in conversation with non-Catholics and non-Christians, McDonough contends that Francis is leading the Church away from any remaining hope for institutional Christian reunification and into a “religiously thicker” attitude of intercultural association with non-Catholics and non-Christians. If the Church receives his exhortation with vigor it may lead to a re-thinking of what it means to be a Catholic Church, person, and educational institution in a religiously pluralistic world.

3:45 – 4:00 pm  
**Break**
4:00 – 5:15 pm  Concluding panel  
Moderator – Bishop Donald Bolen, Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon  
Panelists - Dr. Catherine Cornille and Dr. Eileen Schuller

5:30 – 6:00 pm  Multi-faith Service (Atrium)

6:00 pm  Banquet (Cafeteria)