

Review of: "Active Peacebuilding as a Challenging Task of the Catholic Social Ethics"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an illuminating study of active peacebuilding as a 'challenge of' the CST. The question of a 'challenge for' could have been addressed - references to some missed opportunities, interdisciplinary, inter-denominational and inter-religious attempts could have been mentioned. Still, the paper offers a helpful presentation of the discussion of various theological and social developments especially since the Second Vatican Council. The study is supported by a solid scholarship, references to data, and well structured analysis. While its focus is on the Roman Catholic perspective, it avoids being dogmatic. It carefully navigates through grey areas and difficulties. It is not easy to handle two approaches at the same time - the consistent opposition to resolving conflicts without undertaking military actions and a long tradition of permitting military actions (just war theory). The paper does handle this well. Perhaps some deeper critique of some RC statement such as those quoted from CCC would have offered even more penetrating approach. Also, whilst Peschke offers useful perspective on war and peace, a more contemporary studies would have made the exploration of the topic even richer and more relevant to contemporary contexts. How do we build peace in the context of contemporary warfare when augmented soldiers and AI inform a good deal of moral decision making in contemporary military conflicts? How can the CST Tradition help to foster a peaceful mind set, create communal practices of peacebuilding, deeper civic engagements, etc? The connection between the Fifth and Seventh Commandments is well made. This is something the author of this review found most thought provoking – thank you! This connection is worth exploring further. Overall, this is a very helpful debate, especially in the contemporary context of our world.