

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.

I appreciate the deep knowledge and careful research that went into crafting this essay. However, the essay's scope may be more ambitious than the length of the piece allows. An entire book or a shelf in the library could be devoted to active peacebuilding and the background Catholic theologies that theorize this aim. It was not until the final section that I was able to identify the focused purpose of the essay: "A right approach to war is not achieved through its refusal, but through humans positively striving for peace. The prospects of hopes for permanent peace in the future are the same as are the prospects of love and of overcoming sin. Besides more emphasis on human rights, peace is also facilitated by the support lent to affected states by international community and organisations." If the essay were to focus more consistently on active peace making and subordinate information on adjacent topics (such as Catholic just war theory) by placing that information in footnotes, the essay would have a stronger impact for readers familiar with the general field but curious about this particular approach. The most promising moments in the essay, for this reader, were the section on positive peace and the intriguing comment about denial of the right to war, both of which could profitably be developed. I would find the essay much stronger if the language were not gender specific (men v. humanity, paternal v. parental). Internationally, women have done much to contribute to building peace and should not be excluded grammatically from this essay's consideration. Finally the opening scenario is abandoned, not tied concretely to the essay's goals or accomplishments.