

# Review of: "The Catholic School: Holistic?"

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**Potential competing interests:** Any competing interests are revealed in my response to this paper.

Comment on 'The Catholic school: Holistic?' 10 May 2023

I believe that holistic education is imperative for setting a solid foundation and improving the quality of life of students in schools and universities (All people really!). My brief comments are based on my extensive experience in science, education (from primary to tertiary levels, including work in Catholic schools), formal study of humanism as the third force in science education and, most recently, 30 years' experience of research of spirituality in health and well-being (including Psychology, Sociology education and healthcare settings)

This paper is interesting and informative but, as an evangelical Protestant Christian, I do not concur with the hallowing of Mary and limited saints, as I acknowledge the sainthood of all believers. I also find much of Lonergan's writing to be more psychological than theological, based on human wisdom, more than Godly Wisdom.

God is author, arbiter and protector of all Truth. Relativistic humanism is less than satisfactory as it leads people away from Truth, to an inferior understanding of the reality of God's Creation and our place in it. Science and psychology are restrictive human endeavours which cannot answer questions of origin of matter, space, time and life, so should be viewed from their limited perspective.

Genuine holistic education is founded on study of God and His Word, illumed by Holy Spirit, not just interpreted by confined human understanding. I realise that this is a gradual process as, with more than 70 years' personal experience, I am still growing in this realm of life. Helping each student to acknowledge the need and to form a personal relationship with God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, is the beginning of Wisdom, which can lay the foundation for holistic well-being and growth, through life-time learning.

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