

Review of: "The Catholic School: Holistic?"

Sara Teinturier¹

¹ Université de Sherbrooke

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General remarks: The theme is particularly interesting, and many elements are addressed in this article: the place of the Catholic school in a secularized world (including questions involving Catholic morality/social justice relationships); reflections of thinkers from the Catholic sphere in relation to Catholic education in such a context; pre/post conciliar socio-historical developments in the education field; philosophy of education and philosophy of knowledge in the Catholic school; the scientific curriculum, multiculturalism and the Catholic educational tradition; etc.

Each of these elements could be the subject of a specific and advanced reflection. However, by not really choosing one of them but addressing them all, the article makes the reader be confused.

More specific points :

1. the notion of "Catholic school" is not contextualized. What exactly are we talking about: (a) Catholic educational institutions - and if so, which ones: primary, secondary, university? Where are they located as the contexts are quite different from one place to another? Catholic schools, even in the same area, are far from homogeneous, and the situation varies greatly from one to another. (b) Or are we talking about the idea of Catholic education in the thinking of a philosopher and theologian?
2. The question is difficult to identify: is it a question of validating Lonergan's thinking? Or is the focus on presenting the situation of the "Catholic school" in the way in which curricula are set up regarding doctrina? Of analyzing and criticizing the notion of "holistic"? On this last point (notion of "holistic"), how define it and how can it be linked to other notions present in certain fields of theology or philosophy of education (person / even personalism...)?
3. Methodology: the method needs to be spelled out: how should Lonergan's thought be analyzed, based on what corpus of documents/sources? Precisely what approach should be used? How should Lonergan's thought be linked to that of other theologians/philosophers and what criteria should be used to select the references used?
4. Summary: on reading it, it is not clear what the main question, methodology and approach are.