

**THE VISION OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT:
THE VIRTUE OF SOLIDARITY AND THE PRAXIS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS.** By Meghan J. Clarke. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014. Pp. xiii + 166. \$39.00.

Clarke offers an important and timely contribution in her book: human rights and solidarity are intrinsically connected, interdependent, mutual, even necessary, and it offers an examination of the relationship between the two. To provide the framework for understanding solidarity, Clarke moves through the history of social Papal encycli-

cals, traditional teachings of the church, and draws insights into the intent of the language, even for those who are familiar with the teachings already. Along the way, she considers Kant, Sen, Elizabeth Johnson C.S.J., and a plethora of other contributors to the field. Participation in the universal common good is difficult, which is acknowledged at the beginning by “the ambiguity of the claims the suffering of others places upon us.” But Clarke provides concrete examples of how active participation has been addressed, and allows readers to reflect on one’s own praxis in the universal common good. The most persuasive, important contribution of the book is that solidarity is, in fact, possible within the human community. The text is useful for undergraduate students and faculty at Catholic institutions, as well as Campus Ministries with service learning immersion trips. In places where service to others may be predominantly defined as charity or individual benefits (like building a home), this book can expand that discussion to reshape insights and fashion service into one of solidarity with all peoples.

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