This symposium is a result of “Author Meets Critics,” a panel at the 2021 Society of Catholic Social Scientists Annual Conference. The book under discussion is *It Is Right and Just: Why the Future of Civilization Depends on True Religion*,¹ whose authors are Scott Hahn and Brandon McGinley. One might wonder: Why choose this book? The impetus is to be found in the question famously posed by John Courtney Murray in *We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition*: “The question is sometimes raised, whether Catholicism is compatible with American democracy. The question is invalid as well as impertinent; for the manner of its position inverts the order of values. It must, of course, be turned around to read whether American democracy is compatible with Catholicism.”² This question has become all the more pertinent with the establishment of the culture of death and the imposition of false narratives over and against the truth. Notable within this debate are the “Catholic Integralists,” who propose an assertion of the Church’s teaching on these matters to critique the American political order and indicate a goal toward which Catholics should actively strive. Hahn and McGinley jump into this debate, bringing some prominence and urgency to the compatibility question which Catholics can no longer ignore. In a nutshell, the authors argue for a retrieval of the virtue of religion, a species of the virtue of justice which requires both individuals and societies, including the political order, to recognize and worship God the way He reveals Himself through Christ and His Church. A provocative claim for sure, but one which just as surely has to be investigated.
Responding to the book are three political theorists—this author, Professor Bracy Bersnak, and Professor Jerome Foss. My critique is more a summary and by far the friendliest and most affirming of the book, followed by Bersnak’s friendly but mildly critical response. Last is the more formidable critical essay by Foss. Brandon McGinley, the co-author who was able to participate in the conference, completes the symposium with his response to the three academicians. I invite you to read each participant’s own words in this most important debate for Catholics and Americans.

Notes
