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Recognizing Humanity in Others: L'Arche Sudbury's Mission of Hope

Abstract

As we move into the twenty-first century, scholars have been searching for a way to ensure that the violence the world experienced in the twentieth century is not repeated. This paper examines how L'Arche, an organization that creates communities for adults with developmental disabilities, is working towards a more peaceful world in which those who are seen as Other by society can be recognized as human. L'Arche's mission to create communities based on mutual relationships and the recognition of common weakness is compared with Judith Butler's assertion that common vulnerability can become the basis for non-violent political solutions. Drawing on examples from the L'Arche Sudbury community, this paper examines how those who live in L'Arche embody the abstract ideal of recognizing humanity in Others through their everyday actions.