



**Peer-Review Report Form**

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Manuscript Title:</b> | Gesù Abbandonato as a Hermeneutical Framework for Christian–Buddhist Dialogue in Thailand |
| <b>Type of Article:</b>  | Original Article                                                                          |

**FIRST ROUND**

**Editor**

| <b><u>General Comments and Recommendations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The reviewers acknowledge the significance of your manuscript and recommend several revisions to further improve its clarity, coherence, organization, and overall scholarly quality. In addition, you are advised to thoroughly review and validate all references included in the manuscript. Please ensure that all cited sources are accurate, accessible, and retrievable through Google Scholar to uphold the credibility and reliability of the study. Additionally, make sure to include the DOI or website link for every reference whenever available to facilitate verification and accessibility of sources. Furthermore, only sources that are cited within the manuscript should appear in the References section, and all entries listed in the References section must also be cited in the text. For example, if 20 unique sources are cited in the manuscript, then only those 20 sources should be included in the References section. Please also note that repeated citations of the same source within the text are counted as a single reference entry; therefore, the total number of references may be lower than the total number of in-text citations. Additionally, please ensure that the References section adheres to APA 7th edition guidelines and that all formatting requirements (e.g., font style, font size, spacing, and hanging indentation) are strictly followed. |

**Reviewer 1**

| <b><u>General Comments and Recommendations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The topic of using Chiara Lubich's theology of Jesus Forsaken as a bridge to Theravada Buddhism is very fresh and deeply needed today. It is clear you have a good heart for dialogue and peacebuilding. The general structure seems logical at first glance, moving from the background of interreligious dialogue to methods and then discussion. |

| <b><u>Specific Comments and Recommendations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Introduction</p> <p>The background setup is quite strong. Bringing in Vatican II documents like <i>Nostra Aetate</i> and Pope Francis's recent vision gives a solid Catholic foundation for why this dialogue is important. When discussing the Thai context, you mention that Christians are a minority and coexist with Buddhists. This is true but a bit generic. It would be much stronger if you briefly explain specific Thai cultural values here to show exactly why Thailand is fertile ground for this specific framework.</p> |



#### Methodology

Listing the three stages of your analytical process makes your plan very clear to the reader. You list the primary books you will use, such as Lubich's Essential Writings and Jesus Forsaken. Please explain how you select the specific passages from these books. What are your criteria to say that Christian kenosis and Buddhist *suññatā* can be validly compared?. A little more detail on the mechanics of your comparison will make the methodology stronger.

#### The Missing Body Sections (Results)

Section 3 is called Results. In a qualitative textual study, you cannot just list the findings like a science experiment. You must build the argument step by step. I highly suggest you create new body sections here. For example, write one section exploring kenosis and Jesus Forsaken in Lubich's thought. Write another section explaining *dukkha* and *suññatā* in the Theravada tradition. Then, write a third section bringing them into direct dialogue. Only after doing this deep dive should you summarize the findings.

#### Discussion and the Thai Context

In the discussion, you make an excellent point that the framework facilitates encounter without collapsing doctrinal differences. This is crucial for authentic comparative theology. I noticed a lack of actual Thai voices in the text. You mention P.A. Payutto in the references and cite him only once in the conclusion. Payutto is a massive and highly respected figure in Thai Buddhism! You should engage with his specific interpretations of *Buddhadhamma* much earlier in the main body. This will truly ground your paper in Thailand, rather than just discussing general Theravada concepts.

#### Figure 1

The diagram is visually helpful and places Jesus Forsaken nicely in the center as the interpretive lens. However, please look at the arrows. The arrows from the Christian side and the Buddhist side go straight down into Hermeneutical Application. Real dialogue is a two-way street. I suggest adding horizontal, double-sided arrows between the Christian concepts and the Buddhist concepts to show that they actually interact, challenge, and speak to each other.

#### Conclusion

The conclusion is actually written beautifully. It perfectly summarizes how both traditions recognize suffering and encourage a compassionate response to it. Once you write the missing analytical body paragraphs, this conclusion will tie everything together perfectly.

**Please indicate your recommendation by checking the appropriate box below.**

| <u>Decision</u> |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | Accept the manuscript for publication.                                                                                                   |
| /               | Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations. |
|                 | Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.                                                                            |



Reviewer 2

| <b><u>General Comments and Recommendations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| The manuscript presents an interesting and meaningful topic, especially in connecting Chiara Lubich's spirituality with Christian–Buddhist dialogue in Thailand. Its main value is the attempt to offer a theological framework for interreligious encounter. However, the paper still feels too conceptual, and the Thai context and actual dialogue setting need to be developed more strongly. |  |
| <b><u>Specific Comments and Recommendations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| The Thai context is important in the title and purpose, but it is not fully integrated in the analysis. The paper should include more discussion of how Christian–Buddhist dialogue actually happens in Thailand, especially involving the Focolare Movement and Theravāda Buddhist communities. Without this, the study may appear more general than contextual.                                 |  |
| The methodology needs clearer explanation. The paper states that it uses systematic-theological and comparative methodology, but it does not explain enough how the texts were selected, analyzed, and compared. This matters because the strength of a text-based study depends on a clear and transparent analytical process.                                                                   |  |
| The comparison between Christian kenosis and Buddhist concepts such as dukkha, anattā, and suññatā needs deeper treatment. The manuscript recognizes that these concepts are not equivalent, but the discussion should show more clearly their doctrinal differences, especially in relation to salvation, selfhood, and ultimate reality.                                                        |  |
| The Results section reads more like a summary of the main argument rather than actual findings from analysis. The author should present more direct analytical evidence from Lubich's writings and Buddhist sources, so the claims become more convincing.                                                                                                                                        |  |
| The proposed framework in Figure 1 is useful, but it needs stronger explanation. Some elements, such as karuṇā, appear in the figure but are less developed in the methodology and analysis. The author should explain why each component is included and how the parts of the framework relate to each other.                                                                                    |  |
| The discussion of practical implications is promising, but still broad. The paper should give more concrete examples of how this framework may be used in education, pastoral work, peacebuilding, or interfaith activities in Thailand. This will help show the practical value of the study.                                                                                                    |  |
| The conclusion is too long and repeats many points already discussed. It can be shortened by focusing on the main contribution, the limits of the study, and the need for future empirical work.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

Please indicate your recommendation by checking the appropriate box below.

| <b><u>Decision</u></b> |                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        | Accept the manuscript for publication.                                                                                                   |
| /                      | Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations. |
|                        | Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.                                                                            |



**SECOND ROUND**

| <b><u>Decision</u></b>                                                                                                                   | <b><u>Editor</u></b> | <b><u>Reviewer</u></b><br><b>1</b> | <b><u>Reviewer</u></b><br><b>2</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accept the manuscript for publication.                                                                                                   | /                    | /                                  | /                                  |
| Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations. |                      |                                    |                                    |
| Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.                                                                            |                      |                                    |                                    |