

# The Faith-Culture Dialogue : Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Von

Balthasar

Bevil Bramwell OMI

Abstract

The Kantian and Patristic starting points of Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar respectively show up in their differing descriptions of the inculturation of the Christian Faith. Despite the dispute over the notion of the ‘anonymous Christian,’ the two authors’ practical theologies are very similar. Von Balthasar’s retrieval of the notion of form takes us beyond the limitations of Rahner’s focus on the conditions of possibility of the faith which leaves the ‘anonymity’ of the faith amorphous and describe the concrete encounter which constitutes concrete Christian existence. This retrieval also enables a more detailed description of the form of Christian existence itself.