

10-1-1991

Book review: "The Transformation of Dogma: An Introduction to Karl Rahner on Doctrine" by Mary E. Hines

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Repository Citation

Dallavalle, Nancy, "Book review: "The Transformation of Dogma: An Introduction to Karl Rahner on Doctrine" by Mary E. Hines" (1991). *Religious Studies Faculty Publications*. 75.

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Published Citation

Nancy Ann Dallavalle. Book review: "The Transformation of Dogma: An Introduction to Karl Rahner on Doctrine" by Mary E. Hines, *The Journal of Religion*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (Oct., 1991), p. 644

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The Journal of Religion

HINES, MARY E., ed. *The Transformation of Dogma: An Introduction to Karl Rahner on Doctrine*. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1989. 159 pp. \$7.95 (paper).

This short study, a revision of Mary Hines's dissertation, describes Karl Rahner's reconceptualization of the philosophical and theological presuppositions that ground dogmatic statements. Rahner's insistence that dogma serve experience is a particularly needed voice in the current Roman Catholic climate, especially as he bases his critique of the proliferation of binding propositions on *theological*, rather than cultural or social, grounds. Hines traces the development of Rahner's thinking about dogma from his early defense of the doctrine of the Assumption to his post-Vatican II proposal of short creedal formulas and outlines critiques of Rahner by political and liberation theologians. Key themes in Rahner's thought on this topic (the theory of symbol, the unity of dogma, and the dialectic of experience and articulation) are presented in such a clear and systematic fashion that this book could well serve as an introductory companion to Rahner's *Foundations of Christian Faith* (New York, 1978).

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