

**Fr Thomas Michel, S.J.**, was born in St. Louis, U.S.A., in 1941, and joined the Jesuits in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 1971.

After studying Arabic and Islamic studies in Egypt and Lebanon, he received a doctorate in Islamic theology at the University of Chicago. His doctoral thesis was entitled “Ibn Taymiyya’s *Al-Jawab al-Sahih*: A Muslim Theologian’s Critique of Christianity.” In 1978, after teaching at Columbia University in New York, he taught Islamic studies at Sanata Dharma University in Indonesia, as well as Christian theology at Islamic theological institutes.



In 1981-1994, Fr. Michel worked in the Vatican under Pope John Paul II as Head of the Office for Relations with Muslims. During this time he spent four years teaching Christian theology in universities in Turkey and at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Gregorian University in Rome.

In 1994-2008, Fr. Michel served as Secretary for Interreligious Affairs for the Catholic bishops of Asia, based in Bangkok, Thailand, and as Secretary for Interreligious Dialogue, at the Jesuit Curia in Rome. In 2000 he delivered the D’Arcy Lectures at Oxford University on themes of Muslim-Christian relations. In 2008-2013, he lived in Turkey and taught Christian theology at Turkish state universities.

In 2008, he received the International Tschelebi Peace Prize from the Central Islamic Institute of Germany, and in 2009 he received the Ali Shir Navai Award from the International Turkish Olympiad in Ankara, Turkey. In 2010, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Theology by the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, Illinois. In 2013, he received the Building Bridges of Understanding Award from Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding of Georgetown University.

In 2011 he held the Tuohy Chair at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. In 2012 he held the Wade Chair at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 2011-2013 he has served in Georgetown University as Senior Fellow of the Woodstock Theological Center and Senior Fellow of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

Fr. Michel is on the International Advisory Board of the Khalidi Library, Jerusalem and the Editorial Board of the journal *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* in Birmingham, UK; He is on the International Advisory Panel of the International Movement for a Just World in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and on the Advisory Board of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2013-2016 He has been teaching religious studies at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University in Doha, Qatar.