

Archbishop Nicolas Henry Marie Denis Thevenin
Titular Archbishop of Eclano
Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt and Papal Delegate to the Arab League
Safarat al-Vatican
5 Sharia Muhammad Mazhar
Zamalek
Cairo
Egypt

31 July 2020

Your Excellency,

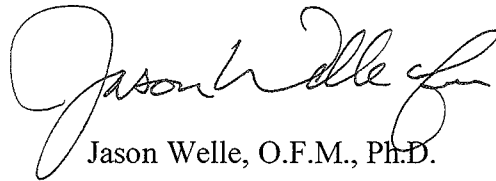
My name is Fr. Jason Welle, O.F.M., and I currently serve as the Director of Studies at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI) in Rome. I write to convey my personal esteem for the work of the Center for Arab-West Understanding (CAWU) and the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT).

Founded in 2005, the CIDT promotes the ideals of interreligious/intercultural understanding and accurate reporting about Christian-Muslim relations in Egypt and the broader Middle East. The Center maintains the Arab-West Report database which now stores approximately 55,000 articles, reports, interviews, and media summaries about the role of religion in Egyptian society.

For my personal research, I occasionally have the opportunity to travel to Cairo, and when I do, I always inform myself about the Center's events and encourage PISAI students, who often sojourn at Dar Comboni, to do the same. A particularly memorable event I attended was a 2018 talk by the Rt. Rev. George Carey, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, who spoke about religious reform in Christianity and Islam. I was honored that the Center invited me to speak at their 2019 summer school on Christian-Muslim relations, although a last-minute scheduling problem on my part unfortunately prevented this. Among the numerous collaborators of the Center, my most extensive contact has been with Dr. Matthew Anderson, whom I have known for nine years. The scientific quality of his scholarly work is beyond doubt, and his practical labors for the Center's events promoting Christian-Muslim dialogue have been positive and creative.

Please feel free to contact me at jason.welle@pisai.it if you have any questions about the fine work of the Center. My hope and prayer is that their efforts continue well into the future. Please be assured also of my prayers for your ministry, particularly in this difficult moment of pandemic.

Sincerely,



Jason Welle, O.F.M., Ph.D.
Director of Studies
PISAI