

**Honorable fathers, distinguished academicians and professors, dear colleagues, dear students, ladies and gentlemen,**

I welcome you on behalf of the Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion. It is a great privilege to shortly address you on this wonderful academic occasion. But, before I welcome Michael, I will state a few facts about the Center. The Center is a branch of the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the University of Zagreb. We are an academic platform for further development of the philosophy that scrutinizes and ponders about the mutual interactions between science and religion. Our fundamental mission is establishing a functional dialog between reason and faith. Dwelling in such an academic realm we are not activists of any kind nor we are an ecumenical initiative. Having said so, I kindly invite you to follow our public events and initiatives through our web page.

I express my gratitude to the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb for being a perfect host. Also, special gratitude goes to the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies for being the chief patron of this event. Further, most kindly I thank my collaborators in the Center for without them this would not be possible.

Last but not least, dear Michael, thank you for accepting our humble invitation to be our distinguished guest today. You will be introduced by the Secretary of the Center in a moment.

Thank you all, I wish you inspiring moments during the lecture.

**Petar Tomev Mitrikeski**

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