

## Dr. Prasad Theruvathu



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### **1. Who was your supervising tutor when you visited the University of Würzburg?**

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andreas Speer, the present director of Thomas Institute at the University of Cologne, was my supervising tutor during my doctoral studies at the University of Wuerzburg.

### **2. We would be happy to get to know something about your academic/ professional career and it would be nice if you could describe your professional work in a few words.**

As a Catholic Carmelite monk I am concerned about the visible and invisible worlds of God and man. The study of philosophy and theology help me to discover new realms regarding these questions. However, my main academic passion is philosophy. After completing B.A. in philosophy at Kerala University (1988-1991) and B.Th. in theology at Teresianum, Rome (1992-1995), I was ordained to Priesthood. I had the first direct taste of western culture in those days. I learned new languages and new customs. Having completed M.A. in philosophy at Delhi University (1997-1999) I taught philosophy in Kerala for two years. In 2001 when I returned to Europe the geography of Europe had changed. I did PhD in philosophy at the University of Wuerzburg (2001-2006). My research about "Ineffability in the thought of Nicholas of Cusa" helped me to open up the horizon of thoughts through the mind of this universal, intercultural and interreligious German thinker of 15<sup>th</sup> century. Today his thoughts could be called Euro-Indian. Since 2007 I am visiting lecturer of philosophy in Kerala, India and I am engaged in interreligious and intercultural dialogues as the one in charge of the Intercultural and Spiritual Centre of Our Order in Basel, Switzerland.

### **3. What's your image from India? What do you find most fascinating about the subject?**

I have been for a long time in Europe and I was watching my "Incredible India" from Europe. India is one of the oldest civilizations and the living civilization, with all its oldest traditions, customs, myths, casts, creeds, languages etc. In the context of Euro-Indian week I would say, appreciation for one's own culture and openness to other cultures is an Indian characteristic. What fascinates me is the multi cultural, multi political, multi religious and multi linguistic India, which functions as a successful democratic secular country. In this regard India lives long ago what the European Union strives to achieve. At the same time India must learn a lot from the west in its efforts to achieve social justice and political correctness. Cultural, academic and economic exchange will help in this learning process.

### **4. What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academic and economic exchange?**

Cultural: The world has become a global village. There are multiple meeting points in this village and university is the most creative and promising plaza of cultural exchange. Each human person being a carrier of cultures, the Alumni could become the best missionaries of cultural exchanges and inculturation.

Academic: Learning and teaching are two sides of academic exchange. Alumni are in general considered to be those who learn but in academic exchange it is wonderful to notice that the alumni play both the role of a teacher and a student. No Knowledge is for oneself: every knowledge has to be shared. In the academic exchange between alumni this sharing could become intensive and productive.

Economic: The cultural and academic exchanges could inspire novel initiatives which could affect the economy of the many lands. Therefore in terms of economic exchange the role of alumni could be revolutionary.