



Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama

Born in the Nigerian state of Taraba, Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama was ordained a Catholic priest in 1981. He worked in several parishes in Nigeria's Yola Diocese (Adamawa State) and, in 1995, became the first bishop of the Diocese of Jalingo, the capital city of his home state of Taraba. In 2000, he was installed as the Archbishop of Jos, capital of Plateau State.

In addition to his role as archbishop, he is also the founder of the Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Peace Centre; first vice president of the [Regional Episcopal Conferences of West Africa](#) (RECOWA); and president (serving his second three-year term) of the [Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria](#) (CBCN). Past positions include chair of the Plateau State Inter-Religious Council for Peace and Harmony and chair of the [Christian Association of Nigeria](#) (CAN), in Plateau State. He holds a PhD in spiritual theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and among his writings is a compilation of some of his peace efforts entitled [Peace, Not War: A Decade of Interventions in the Plateau State Crises \(2001-2011\)](#).

The archbishop's interreligious work includes being a founding member of Nigeria's InterFaith Activity & Partnership for Peace (IFAPP) dedicated to providing "a credible and trusted platform for dialogue between people of different faiths," including efforts to "work out modalities for stemming the rising tension between Christians and Muslims" and "strategies for combating the Boko Haram challenge." In October 2015, the interreligious work which Archbishop Kaigama and Muslim leader Emir Muhammadu Mohammed Muazu are doing in Nigeria was profiled in the *Deutsche Welle* article, "Nigeria: Religious dialogue in times of terror."