

Biography Rabbi Michael Schudrich

Michael Mordehai Joseph Schudrich (born June 15, 1955) is the Chief Rabbi of Poland. Born in New York City, Rav Schudrich lived in Patchogue, New York, where his father served as a pulpit rabbi. His grandparents emigrated to the United States from Baligród, Poland, before World War II.

Educated in Jewish day schools in the New York City area, Schudrich graduated from Stony Brook University in 1977 with a Religious Studies major and received an MA in History from Columbia University in 1982. He received Conservative smicha (rabbinical ordination) from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and later, an Orthodox smicha through Yeshiva University from Rabbi Moshe Tendler. He served as Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Japan from 1983 to 1989.

After leading Jewish groups on numerous trips to Europe, Rav Schudrich began working for the "Ronald S. Lauder Foundation" and resided in Warsaw, Poland, from 1992 to 1998.

He returned to Poland in June 2000 as Rabbi of Warsaw and Łódź, and in December 2004 was appointed Chief Rabbi of Poland. Rav Schudrich has played a central role in the "Jewish Renaissance" in Poland.

Rav Schudrich is a member of "the Rabbinical Council of America" and of "the Conference of European Rabbis". In Kashrut, he cooperates with the Orthodox Union, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the Chicago Rabbinical Council (CRC) and other Kashrut organizations. Rav Schudrich has been a Polish citizen since November 3, 2005, and holds both American and Polish citizenship.

Rabbi Schudrich had been invited to travel on the aircraft that crashed on April 10th 2010, killing 96 people including the Polish President. He refused to go as it would have violated the Sabbath, a decision which saved his life.

«The concept of having an Open Air Museum is a fascinating one ! It is a deeper sense of connecting to the past. In Radomsko, you can walk the streets and immediately see where the Jews were living, praying, working, entertaining... You cannot see that anywhere else in Europe ! This is a unique place. Come see what Jewish life was before the war ! Besides, this Jewish Museum in Radomsko is an opportunity for people to learn : for Jews, to learn about Radomsko and Poland. For non Jews, to learn about Judaism. I am honored to support and to be a Member of Honor of the project. Thank you Rachel Lea Kesselman for all you have done to make this idea into a reality».