

JAMES AALEN has been a Facilitator of a number of *TSN* programs (2016-2021). He envisioned the unique *Mary/Maryam Service* which celebrates the devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as she is revered in Catholicism and uniquely honored in Islam.

His role as a vowed member and monk of the Roman Catholic Passionist Religious Congregation brought him to Louisville fifty years ago. He is still closely involved with the Passionists in Louisville and their Western Province.

He graduated from Bellarmine University, *Magna Cum Laude*, with a B.A. in English and Communications. In his senior year he was one of two students nominated for the most distinguished undergraduate award *In Veritatis Amore*, which exemplifies the living out of the school's motto *In the Love of Truth*. Currently he is an active member of the International Thomas Merton Society located in Bellarmine University.

He took advanced studies in theology, sacred scripture and Greek at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Jim has been a *mureed* (student) of the **Universalist Sufi Order** founded by **Hazrat Inayat Khan**, for more than two decades, and has led Sufi dancing and chanting in Intermountain West and Kentucky. This school of Sufism germinated in India and celebrates **The Unity** reflected in all genuine spiritual traditions of the earth. He is currently a member of **The Threshold Society of Louisville**, the Mevlevi Order founded by the Sufi Poet Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi.

He successfully managed a multifaceted forty-year career in marketing and advertising with large national clients including **Paramount Pictures**, **Chili's**, **Zales Jewelers**, **Southwest Airlines** and **PetSmart**.

