



# THE SALAAM NETWORK

*Striving to make our Beloved Community of Louisville Whole*



**CELEBRATING THE 800<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEETING  
BETWEEN SULTAN MALIK AL-KAMIL  
AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**Hosted by The Conventual Franciscan Friars**  
**Venue: Mount St. Francis, 101 St. Francis, IN 47146**  
**Date: Monday, September 30, 2019, 7:00 - 9.00 p. m.**

**BACKGROUND:** Exactly 800 years ago this month St Francis of Assisi made an arduous trip through one of the later crusades and crossed enemy lines to be welcomed by Sultan Malik al Kamil in Northern Egypt. The two men exchanged their beliefs for a couple of weeks and St. Francis came away with a deep respect for Islam and an ivory ceremonial trumpet from the Sultan which is treasured by the Franciscans in Italy.

**PROGRAM:** After a short opening prayer and remarks, there will be a viewing of a 60-minute movie *The Sultan and the Saint*, produced by the Unity Production Foundation in 2016 and aired on PBS as well as a number of interfaith gatherings in the U. S.

**PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:** Following the screening there will be two presentations - one by **Franciscan Father Vincent Petersen** representing a Christian perspective, and the second by **Jim Aalen of The Salaam Network** representing an Islamic perspective. A discussion led by **Sister Joella of the Benedictine Monastery** in Ferdinand, Indiana, will follow the presentations. At the end there will be singing from both traditions.

**JIM AALEN** is the Administrator of *The Salaam Network*, who came to Louisville 50 years ago as a vowed member of Passionist Religious Congregation. Graduating from Bellarmine University, *Magna Cum Laude*, he pursued advanced studies at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union. A *mureed* (disciple) of the **Universalist Sufi Order** founded by Hazrat Inayat Khan, for more than two decades, he leads Sufi dancing and chanting. He is currently a member of the Threshold Society representing the **Mevlevi Order** founded by the followers of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi.