

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST: THEIR EXPERIENCES, THEIR CHALLENGES

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017
7:00 to 8:30 pm**

Rev. Elias Mallon, S.A., PhD

**Lakewood Catholic Academy
14808 Lake Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107**

REV. ELIAS D. MALLON, a native New Yorker, is an ordained member of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement (Graymoor). Father pursued his licentiate degree (STL) in Old Testament studies and a PhD in Middle Eastern languages from the Catholic University of America, completed his dissertation in Tübingen, Germany and then went on to teach at a number of Universities. He also worked for the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (now Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) as its faculty representative for the World Council of Churches in Switzerland. From 1989-2001 he was Director of the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute in New York City.

Father Mallon has been involved in the Roman Catholic/Christian-Muslim dialogue on the local, national and international level since 1985 and has published several articles and two books on Islam. Presently he is a member of the East Coast/Mid-Atlantic Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Elias has received several awards and honorable mentions from the International Catholic Press Association for his writings on Islam. His articles appear regularly in *America* and *ONE* magazines. Father Elias worked for six years at a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations, where he used his experience and contacts with Islam to work with Muslim countries and NGOs. He is on the NGO Israel-Palestine Working Group.

Father Mallon will speak at Lakewood Catholic Academy on the topic: Immigrants and Refugees from the Middle East. When asked to address this topic, Father commented: "I would love to do anything to help your parishes understand the issues revolving around Refugees and Migration as a result of turmoil in the Middle East. That is where all the theoretical work I do hits the road and gets practical. I have been working first for Franciscans International and now for CNEWA for ten years at the UN and am happy to bring those experiences and information." This should prove to be a very informative experience!