

**HEAR MOTHER AGNES MARIAM SPEAK IN TORONTO!**

**Mother Agnes-Mariam of The Cross**

**What is Really Happening in Syria Today?**



**Mother Agnes-Mariam of the Cross** is Mother Superior at the Monastery and Convent of St. James in Qara, Syria. Much of the population in the towns and villages around the monastery have fled and been made refugees. She left the safety and security of her convent to bear a message of peace in the war zone that is Syria today. Every day there, she puts her life at serious risk organizing ceasefires to permit the evacuation of civilians caught in firefights; trying to save civilians of minority religions (such as Christians and Alawites) and of minority ethnicities (such as Druze) from harm; attempting to protect Christian churches and monasteries from attack; and promoting dialogue between the warring parties. Gunmen attacked her vehicle in May, 2013.

The story that Mother Agnes tells is very different from what we hear and read in the North American press. In May 2013, she organized an international delegation, led by Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, which visited Lebanon and Syria. The delegation observed conditions and talked with refugees, opposition and government representatives. Mother Agnes is one of the main organizers of the Mussalaha (“Reconciliation”) Initiative, a popular movement in Syria seeking to bring about a peaceful, made-in-Syria, political solution to the ongoing war. Mother Agnes-Mariam is likely to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize next year.

Mother Agnes is currently touring the U.S. and Canada to inform people about the reality in Syria and the need to stop foreign support and financing of terrorism. Her message is non-sectarian, promoting the values of peace, love and reconciliation.

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, December 5, 7 pm

**VENUE:** Edessa Banquet Centre 1811 Albion, Etobicoke, ON

**OTHER:** Donations to cover the costs of the tour gratefully accepted

**EMAIL:** [solidarity@syriasolidaritymovement.org](mailto:solidarity@syriasolidaritymovement.org)

**TOUR ORGANIZED BY:** [www.syriasolidaritymovement.org](http://www.syriasolidaritymovement.org)