Creative Coptic Religious Leadership: The Strategies of Mother Irini

While religious leadership differs from other forms of leadership such as in the world of business and not-for-profit organisations (NGO’s), there is much overlap. For example, in religious as well as in non-religious settings, the most successful leaders are creative innovators who apply new strategies to get their message across, make it visible, and energize those working with them. In this presentation, I analyse some of the methods introduced by Mother Irini, the famous abbess of the Abu Saifein convent (d. 2006) who inspired the renewal of the monastic life for Coptic women. Nowadays, the new and innovative models of governance she introduced continue to be applied across the Coptic Church.

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