

Life in women's, men's religious communities is basis of two films

In addition to "American Pioneers," the story of Old St. Ferdinand Shrine, the upcoming St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase at the Tivoli Theatre in University City features two other documentaries with a Catholic theme.

Sharing double-billing with "American Pioneers" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, is "That All May Be One," the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

"That All May Be One" was written, directed and produced by Karen Kearns, associate dean of arts, media and communication at California State University-Northridge. The film is 54 minutes long.

In her director's statement, Kearns said she was inspired by a newspaper article about the declining number of religious sisters.

"I was able to secure approval to shoot the documentary because of families ties," said Kearns, who is the cousin of Sister Joan Lampton, a local member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of

Carondelet.

"The (Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet) order is particularly fascinating because the nuns decided to renovate their 1840 motherhouse on the bluffs of the Mississippi River rather than raze or abandon it. This remarkable decision represents the nuns' commitment to their dear neighbors and their ruling dictum, 'That All May be One,' taken from St. John's Gospel," Kearns explained in her director's statement.

Kearns said, "I'm honored they allowed me to tell their story."

Also showing during the filmmakers' event is "St. Benedict's Rule," a 78-minute documentary about Conception Abbey in Conception, in Northwest Missouri.

"St. Benedict's Rule" will be shown at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

Jay L. Kanzler Jr., director of "St. Benedict's Rule" and an Episcopal priest, said "The film is a documentary first and fore-

most about monastic life: What is a monk, why do men become monks, what is the life of a monk? The monks of Conception Abbey are wonderfully faithful, honest, interesting and, at times, very humorous."

"St. Benedict's Rule" also deals with a tragedy at the abbey, a shooting in June 2002 that left three people dead — two monks and the shooter, a 71-year-old man — and two others wounded.

Kanzler said, "My focus is not to sensationalize the tragedy but rather to show how the monks were affected by the tragedy. Was their faith challenged? Were the victims angry? What was the overall impact on the community? The answers were insightful and sometimes surprising."

Tickets for film festival presentations are \$10 each, \$8 for students, at the Tivoli box office, 6350 Delmar Blvd. in University City, or online at tickets.landmarktheatres.com.

— By Barbara Watkins



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