



Landmark Educational Reform Documentary "The Rule" Preview Screening

Friday, November 8, 2013

by: Mary Eileen Fisher

Emmy-nominated filmmakers Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno are previewing their latest documentary at Seton Hall University on **Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.** *The Rule* is a 90-minute look at how the monks of Newark Abbey have transformed St. Benedict's Preparatory School into a model of educational success. The free screening is open to the public.

The Bongornos explained the significance of bringing *The Rule* to Seton Hall: "Since SHU is the 'Catholic University' of the Archdiocese of Newark with 22 departments co-sponsoring this event, it's a fertile place for significant dialogue and action around community building and, with *The Rule*, urban school reform."

In fact, the filmmakers explained that transformation has been recognized by Teacher's College at Columbia University as a vehicle for urban school reform. They began filming *The Rule* as a sequel to their first documentary, the award-winning *Revolution '67* which focused on the 1967 race riots that took place in Newark. The film is currently on the STARZ network. One of St. Benedict's many achievements is bringing young men of all races and cultures together to foster their education and acceptance of each other. Their motto is, "Whatever hurts my brother, hurts me."

The university's Catholic mission is mirrored in the work that the monks have done at St. Benedict's. The primary event sponsor is the Charles and Joan Alberto Italian Studies Institute, partnered with more than twenty Seton Hall clubs and organizations. The SHU connection runs deeper than just the religious. Father Edwin Leahy, O.S.B., headmaster at St. Benedict's, received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University. Jose Lopez, assistant professor of physics, at Seton Hall, also received his high school education at St. Benedict's Prep.

"I found my vocation for teaching and science at St. Benedict's. I discovered my love for physics there. I realized tutoring fellow classmates at St. Benedict's that I had a gift for teaching and enjoyed it. My current vocation at Seton Hall did indeed start at Saint Benedict's," Lopez said of his education at the school.

The screening will take place in Seton Hall's Jubilee Auditorium, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079. Father Edwin and Jose Lopez will join the filmmakers for a discussion following the screening.

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