

Discussion Guide for the Mayo Clinic Heritage Film

“Science is an Act of Love: Dr. Giancarlo Rastelli at Mayo Clinic”



Science is an Act of Love

Dr. Giancarlo Rastelli at Mayo Clinic

In the fall of 1961, a young physician from Parma, Italy, came to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to learn from the pioneers of open-heart surgery. Hardworking, likeable and brilliant, Dr. Giancarlo Rastelli was soon offered a staff position. Unfortunately, Dr. Rastelli’s promising career was cut short by a diagnosis of terminal cancer. Knowing his years of practicing

surgery would be limited, Dr. Rastelli devoted himself to groundbreaking research into heart defects. Before his death in 1970, he made important discoveries and developed an innovative surgical procedure that continues to save lives today. His life is an inspiration to all who believe, like Dr. Rastelli, that “science is an act of love.”

Questions for Discussion

1. WHAT DO YOU ADMIRE MOST ABOUT DR. RASTELLI'S LIFE?

2. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HOW DR. RASTELLI RESPONDED TO THE NEWS THAT HE HAD A SERIOUS ILLNESS?

3. WHAT DOES THE IDEA THAT "SCIENCE IS AN ACT OF LOVE" MEAN TO YOU?

4. WHAT ARE THINGS YOU DO THAT ARE AN "ACT OF LOVE" TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE?

5. HOW DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER YOU IN YEARS TO COME?

For additional information about the life of Dr. Giancarlo Rastelli

This book tells the story of a journey.

Four Italian medical students “met” the life of Dr. Giancarlo Rastelli and through him discovered that science – studying and working in the medical profession – is an act of love.

Their discovery led to a friendship with Giancarlo’s daughter, Dr. Antonella Rastelli, who joined the journey as co-author - sharing stories, recollections and memories of a man whose life was, in the words of his sister, Rosangela, “intense, joyous, full of light, complete: an example for all to follow.”

120 pages

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Available from Marketplace.MayoClinic.com

To view “Science is an Act of Love” and the entire library of Mayo Clinic Heritage Films, visit History.MayoClinic.org

