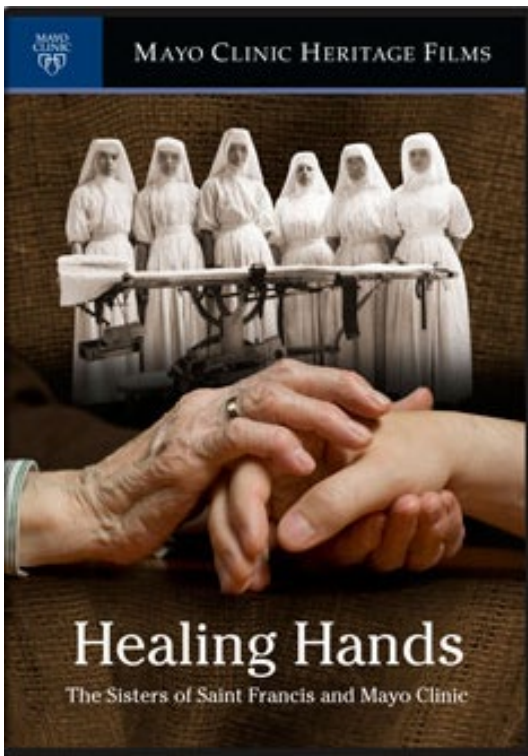




## Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

### Healing Hands: The Sisters of Saint Francis and Mayo Clinic



In 1889, a group of Catholic Sisters, schoolteachers by training, partnered with a 70-year-old physician to build a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters of Saint Francis served as nurses and administrators; the doctor's sons, newly graduated from medical school, became the surgeons.

From these unlikely beginnings, the “hospital in a cornfield” grew into Mayo Clinic, one of the world’s largest and most renowned medical centers. This documentary describes how this group of dedicated and courageous Sisters, guided by their timeless values, provide hope and healing to millions of people from around the world.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Mother Alfred Moes was frequently in conflict with authority figures in the church. Dr. W.W. Mayo was strong-willed and opinionated. Why do you think the two of them had such a productive, mutually respectful relationship?
2. As a young adult, how would you have responded if you had been told, “Starting tomorrow, you’re going to work at the hospital?” Why do you think the Sisters adapted so well to their new roles?

3. Franciscan values are woven into the daily life of Mayo Clinic. Is that only possible because Mayo is in a “healing profession”? Do you think other businesses could benefit from a values-based culture?
4. Outside of patient care, how does one demonstrate the value of compassion in the workplace?
5. What is the relationship of faith and science in medicine?
6. As the Sisters become less of a physical presence in the hospital, how can Mayo Clinic ensure their spirit and values continue to have a strong influence?
7. Did you learn anything new about the lives and mission of the Sisters of Saint Francis by watching this film?