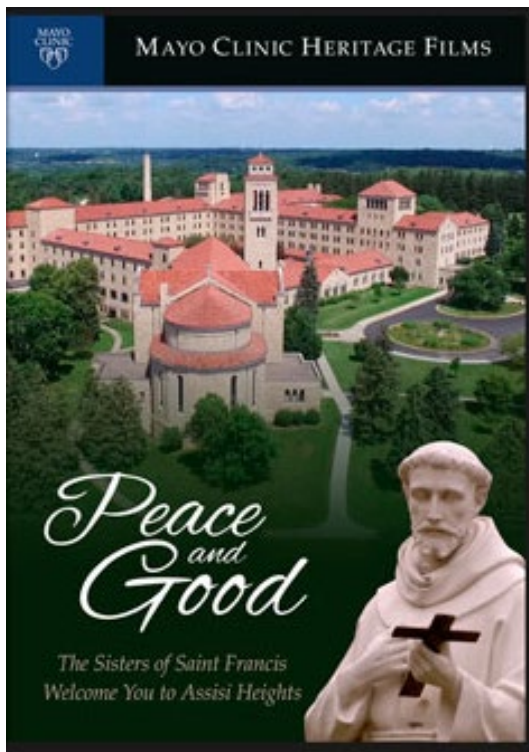




Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

Peace and Good: The Sisters of Saint Francis Welcome You to Assisi Heights



The motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Francis is a beautiful building, rich with history, situated on a hilltop in Rochester, Minnesota. Assisi Heights was built in the 1950s with spaces for worship and accommodations for 500 Sisters.

As the lives and work of the Sisters have changed, so has the “mission” of Assisi Heights. This documentary film tells the story of its evolution through decades of change as the Sisters of Saint Francis followed their calling to promote peace and good.

Discussion Questions

1. Did this film change your perception of Catholic Sisters? If so, in what ways?
2. What do you imagine would be the most fulfilling and the most challenging aspects of living at Assisi Heights?

3. Some of the long-held traditions of the Rochester Franciscans, such as the wearing of habits, the long hours of prayer and the Great Silence in the evenings, have ended. Why did that happen? What do you think about those changes?
4. In the 1960s, the Rochester Franciscans found themselves called to foreign lands and new ministries. Have you experienced an unexpected change in your life or career? How did you respond?
5. Since Vatican II there has been a steady decline in the number of women choosing to become Sisters. Why do you think that happened?
6. Have you ever been involved with an organization that was experiencing decline in numbers? How did you feel about that? Did you do anything to try to change the situation?
7. How do you strive to make the world “more peaceful and just?” Did this film give you any ideas about how you might do so?