

SPAZIO⁺SPADONI

GENERA NEL MONDO AZIONI DI MISSIONE E MISERICORDIA

SPAZIO SPADONI

Spazio Spadoni was established on 11 September 2020 to foster creative collaboration between people with interests and experience in volunteerism and social commitment and female religious organizations that have social, community, and humanitarian experiences in third world countries, particularly in Africa, South America and Asia. A sense of mission is the common theme that connects all projects of Spazio Spadoni. To make this virtuous process sustainable, Spazio Spadoni supports existing missionary organizations involved in works of mercy and promotes new initiatives and activities to nourish the rediscovery of volunteers and support their interest in missionary experiences.

San Cerbone

Spazio Spadoni is located in the evocative Convent of San Cerbone, in Lucca. An ancient Franciscan monastery, a place of peace and silence, set in Lucca's green hills, is a home of spirituality, prayer, and encounter. San Cerbone is a space for thought and spirituality, a real place to promote the theme of mission and, in particular, the valorisation of the Works of Mercy.

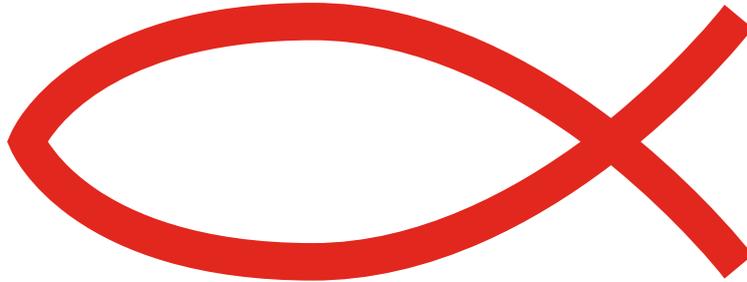
San Cerbone, besides being the heart of the coordination of the HIC SUM projects, is the site of other activities:

- ◆ training for executives, young people, and parish groups;
- ◆ organization of hospitality and spiritual exercises for voluntary associations;
- ◆ development of publishing, study, and activities that deepen understanding and spirituality;
- ◆ structuring of moments of action, education and social planning;
- ◆ meeting and collective study through "Making Space," the convention center of Spazio Spadoni

HIC SUM PROJECT

The HIC SUM missionary project combines thought and action, emphasising the profound and essential value contained in the voluntary gesture. The aim is to activate 72 HIC SUM projects around the world.

The HIC SUM project (Latin expression meaning “Here I am”) is the heart of Spazio Spadoni’s activities. Embarking on this path means being aware of a responsible choice with a missionary imprint: opening one’s arms to a willingness to be bearers and witnesses of the Word and Love of the Lord, hence of His Mercy.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Spazio Spadoni gets in touch with an association and a religious missionary congregation of women.

A nun from the global south comes to Italy to carry out a period of training and experience ranging from three, six or 12 months at the association; a presence that also becomes a “sign” among the volunteers and in the community.

The nun who does her training in Italy is supported by a tutor (identified by the association), and a structured support plan is envisaged for her by the Spazio Spadoni staff. The support is structured in such a way as to make this path a real accompaniment both in the learning phases with respect to technical and organisational dynamics and in the management of human relations.

Once the experience in Italy is over, the sister returns to the mission land. She lays the foundation to set up a new association there, composed of volunteers who would carry out at least one of the 14 Works of Mercy, including the charisms of thankfulness, fraternity, and love. Right from the start, a continuous exchange of volunteers between Italy and the mission site and vice versa is promoted. A true twinning is developed between the Italian association and the one founded in the mission, to be nurtured and made to grow.

In the country of the mission, it is hoped that a social enterprise called “Il Pane di Misericordia” (The Bread of Mercy) will also be set up to produce foodstuffs used by the local community (bread, rice, chocolate, honey, etc.) or to develop or strengthen farming or breeding activities aimed at generating goods, part of which will be sold to generate income for self-sustenance and social promotion, and part will be donated to the poor according to the charism of each congregation. This will be a concrete sign of the Work of Mercy by “Feeding the hungry”.

For the first five years, each project is followed and supported entirely by Spazio Spadoni, which not only takes care of the financial side but also promotes and coordinates the operational phases; after this time, Spazio Spadoni continues to follow and assist the project, but it will be the Italian association that will play the leading role in supporting and developing the twinned mission in the Southern Hemisphere.

We are looking for protagonists
to carry out 72 projects of mercy in the world

Luigi

WHY 72 HIC SUM PROJECTS?

One key is in Luke 10:1, where Jesus commissioned his followers to go ahead of Him.1).

When reading the Bible, one must remember that all numbers have not so much an objective value as a symbolic one.

Genesis 10:1-32 presents the “Table of Nations”, that is the list of peoples created by God.

The progenitors of the nations number 70, the perfect multiple of the sacred 7 (7x10). There are fourteen descendants from Japhet, thirty-one from Ham, and twenty-five from Shem. Shem, Ham and Japhet are the three sons of Noah.

Jewish exegesis developed a rich theology on this number 70. The Rabbis affirm that, because of this division, God would have created the Angels of the Nations in the number of 69, reserving Israel for Himself (69 + 1 = 70); to respect this number, on Sinai, God would have promulgated the Law in 70 languages, and would have commanded that on the Feast of Tabernacles the Priests should offer 70 burnt offerings (2 Chronicles 29:32). By analogy, the descendants of Jacob, ancestor of the holy people, would have been 70 (Genesis 46:27; Exodus 1:15). In the same way, 70 is the number of the Elders in the wilderness (Exodus 24:1), 70 were the kings defeated by Adon-Bezek (Judges 1:7), 70 the sons of Gideon (Judges 8:30), 70 the sons of Ahab (2 Kings 10:1), 70 the Elders of the house of Israel (Numbers 11:16). The number 70 is therefore also the symbolic number of an ideal family, both on earth and in heaven. And this is also the case in non-Jewish traditions; in the Pantheon of Ugarit, capital of the ancient kingdom in Syria, 70 is the number of the sons of the gods ‘El and Asherah (II, AB VI, 46).

“This system, which to us Westerners would seem a game, to Semitic readers signified the harmonies of number and unity of composition” (P. E. Testa).

The Greek translation of the Bible, the so-called LXX, speaks instead of the creation of 72 peoples. According to tradition, the Egyptian ruler Ptolemy II Philadelphus, who reigned from 285 to 246 B.C., personally commissioned the religious authorities of the temple in Jerusalem to make a Greek translation of the Pentateuch for the newly founded library in Alexandria, not the least because by then, after the Babylonian exile, the Jews no longer understood Hebrew, and Greek was instead the international language, rather like English today. The high priest Eleazar appointed 72 Jewish scholars, six scribes from each of the twelve tribes of Israel (in some later narratives simplified to 70), who travelled to Alexandria and were warmly welcomed by the ruler. After settling on the island of Pharos, they completed the translation in 72 days, thanks to their joint work.

In any case, “it was the Greek Bible that Luke, when writing his Gospel, had at his disposal” (O. Da Spinetti). That Bible states that the peoples created by God are 72. So Luke writes: “After these things, the Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every city and place to which he was going” (Luke 10:1).

In reality, the Elders of Israel upon whom the Spirit of God descends also number 72, because Eldad and Medad, who had remained in the camp, must be added to the 70 Elders gathered in the Tent of Meeting (Numbers 11:25-26), as the Zohar, the most important book of the Kabbalistic tradition, emphasises.

Note that the number 72 also corresponds to the name of God (IHWH) according to gematria, the Jewish theological science that gives a numerical value to each letter (as was also the case in the Latin world, where numbers were represented by letters): the sum of the values of the individual letters gives a number that in turn defines a person or a thing.

Thus, the number 72 is both a symbol of universality and recalls the Holy Name of God itself. The disciples are thus sent, according to Jewish symbolism, to evangelise all nations. “Beyond the question of whether there are 70 or 72, the meaning is clear: the Word given to Israel must reach all the children of God, all peoples. And 72 (the peoples) plus 12 (the tribes of Israel) make 84, i.e., 7 times 12: the totality (7) of men are God’s people (12)!” (S. Fausti).

Even a simple numerical value, for those who delve into Holy Scripture with love and passion, can unlock wonderful revelations...

Carlo Miglietta
biblist

TRAINING FOR NUNS

NUNS “AMBASSADORS” IN THEIR LANDS OF WORKS OF MERCY

In the course of developing the aims of Spazio Spadoni, which are summarised in the phrase “to generate in the world actions of mission and Mercy”, a training infrastructure takes shape. It contributes to the preparation of people who, at different levels, make or may make a substantial contribution to the HIC SUM process and, more generally, to the dissemination and practice of the Works of Mercy.

Within this architecture of both social and spiritual practices, education is central. The dual idea is to

- ◆ set up training courses in Italy for nuns to become “Ambassadors” of the Works of Mercy
- ◆ to fertilize the territories and communities where the HIC SUM projects are born and developed by building training centers around the world over time (also by coming alongside existing virtuous experiences).

REFERENCE PROFILE

The sister who takes part in this training course has the task and role of spreading the Works of Mercy. She is capable of transmitting them both within her own experience of the Congregation and in the community. She embraces the values and foundations of Spazio Spadoni and, in particular, the HIC SUM project. She acquires or strengthens her relational skills aimed at the community in proposing the dimension of the Works. She develops autonomy in home economics, planning, and communication.

POST-TRAINING OBJECTIVE

The sisters who have undergone the training will return to their communities with a precise role, that of “Ambassadors of Spazio Spadoni for the Works of Mercy.”

- ◆ Visit all the communities in their country to bring back the training they received in Italy.
- ◆ Spread knowledge of the Works of Mercy, generating awareness in those already performing them. This will also bring together lay volunteers who perform at least one of the Works free of charge within the community, structuring their action and bringing volunteers closer to the community.
- ◆ Marrying the role of “Ambassador” and at the same time being able to convince Mother Superior and her sisters

Training will be given to nuns from French- and English-speaking countries.

WORKS OF MERCY

WORKS OF CORPORAL MERCY

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Dressing the naked
4. Accommodation for Pilgrims
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting Prisoners
7. Burying the dead

WORKS OF SPIRITUAL MERCY

1. Advising the doubters
2. Teaching the ignorant
3. Admonishing sinners
4. Consoling the afflicted
5. Forgiving offences
6. Patiently putting up with harassing people
7. Praying to God for the living and the dead

Spazio Spadoni, through its actions, supports and contributes to the activities and initiatives promoted by the Brotherhoods of Mercy (Confraternite di Misericordia).

HISTORY MERCY

The first Confraternity of Mercy was founded in 1244 in Florence by a Dominican friar, Pietro da Verona, who later became a saint. The first Confraternity members, driven by a generous Christian spirit that nourished love for one's neighbour, in perfect harmony with the evangelical dictate of anonymity "let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing", worked by assisting those struck by the plague during the epidemic.

From the Misericordia of Florence, other Confraternities were born, first in Tuscany and then throughout Italy. Today, there are over 700 Misericordia Associations in the country.

The Misericordie are inspired in their daily actions by the 14 Works of Mercy.

CULTURAL WORKSHOP

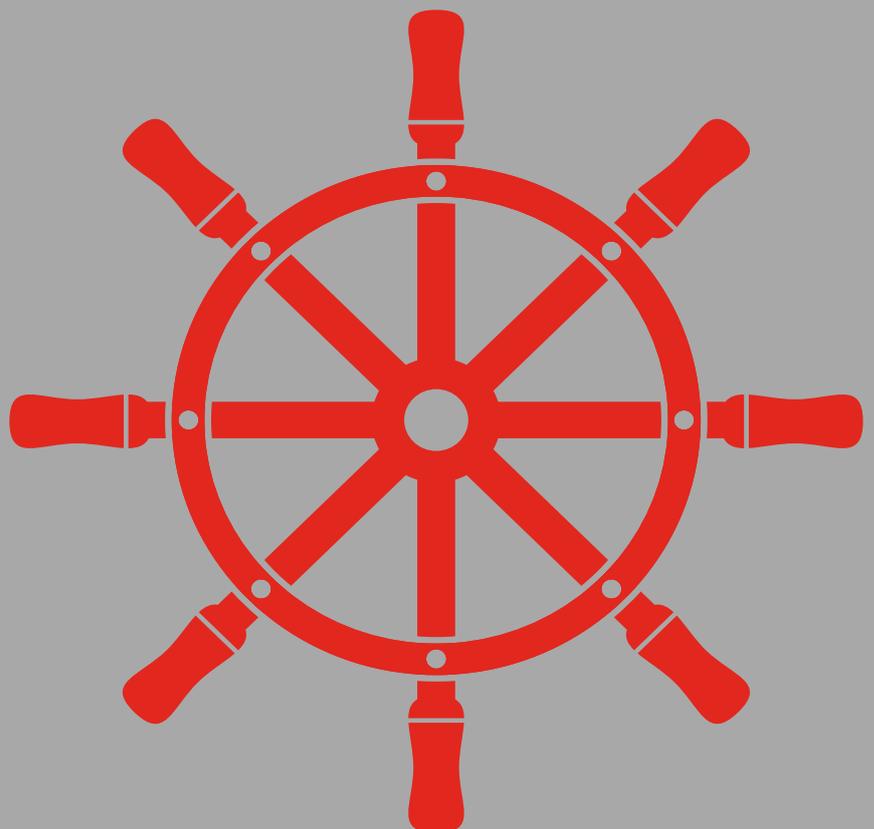
Spazio Spadoni is also a cultural workshop that deals with

- ♦ accompanying projects through the elaboration and production of content as a support tool for the realisation of activities and cultural growth
- ♦ enhancing the organisations participating in Spazio Spadoni projects through the production and development of cultural projects
- ♦ producing books on thematic insights, stories, biographies, focus on processes and projects, narratives of experiences, etc.
- ♦ produce flash reports, in-depth publications, videos, events of various kinds, durations and types, multimedia products, articles
- ♦ taking care of both the public and reserving part of the site useful for archiving material, making it visible and updating the “state of play” of Spazio Spadoni

To achieve its objectives, the cultural workshop uses a number of tools

- ♦ scholarships with Italian universities and universities in HIC SUM project countries
- ♦ traineeships and research grants to young Italians primarily from the voluntary sector or to young foreigners studying in the countries of the HIC SUM projects
- ♦ research groups organised in relation to the subject of the work to be carried out
- ♦ ad hoc contracts for specific collaborations, especially for young people

The specificity that distinguishes this cultural workshop is the type and diversity of the direct and main recipients, i.e., the religious congregations, the third sector organisations, the subjects involved in the various projects who have an active role and, in some cases, the entire community (citizens, administrations, local subjects, partners, interlocutors in the countries involved, etc.).





Spazio Spadoni promotes “Fare Spazio”, the Spadoni Spadoni’s Convention, the main event of the year dedicated to in-depth study, meeting, discussion, and training in Spazio Spadoni in which seminars, workgroups, aggregative activities, readings, visits and informal situations alternate. Each year a main theme is chosen, which is linked to missionary work and is treated with different facets depending on the area of intervention of the speakers.

Participation in presence or through online and streaming.

WHY ‘MAKING SPACE’?

Making Space has a double meaning

- ◆ To create a privileged time space where we can all contribute, each to the extent that we can, to the growth and development of the objectives, tools and visions of Spazio Spadoni.
- ◆ To create a personal space in a community context, where one can review, rethink and structure one’s civil and value commitment one’s contribution in terms of civic, social and mission-oriented service.

“There are some who want to know just to know, and that is despicable curiosity; there are some who want to know just to show off, and that is despicable vanity; there are some who want to know in order to sell their knowledge, for example for money or honours, and that is foul trade; but there are also some who want to know in order to educate, and that is charity. Likewise, some want to know in order to educate, and that is prudence. Of all these, only the last two do not fall into the abuse of science precisely because they want to know in order to do good”.

St Bernard of Clairvaux

SPAZIO SPADONI COLLABORATES WITH

DIOCESAN MISSIONARY CENTRES

At the regional level, the Diocesan Mission Centres, in carrying out their activities, enjoy the support and participation of the **Regional Missionary Commissions** led by the delegated bishop of the respective regional conference (TEC).

At the diocesan level, the **Missionary Centre** has the task of promoting religious animation in favour of the mission as a place of encounter between cultures, faiths, and peoples. It represents, therefore, the unifying and connecting point of all the missionary expressions of the local church.

In the field of solidarity and international cooperation, it promotes dialogue between sister churches around the world to support all forms of encounter and knowledge with the different realities of the global South.

The Diocesan Mission Centre essentially acts on three levels

- ◆ **Animation:** cultivates the missionary dimension in every sphere of life: family, community, and parish, promoting initiatives/events/moments of prayer/reflection, in collaboration also with other associations in the area, for a culture of peace and inter-religious dialogue.

- ◆ **Training:** promotes training courses and missionary trips for young people/adults interested in missionary experience. It supports exchanges with organisations/associations involved in reception/cooperation/interculture. It animates courses in schools of all levels on world/intercultural education, north/south imbalances, environmental sustainability, lifestyles, critical information, and interreligious dialogue.

- ◆ **Cooperation:** it supports its fidei donum missionaries in their work of evangelisation and human promotion by carrying out cooperation interventions/projects in favour of communities of men/women/children in the many Souths of the world.

SPAZIO SPADONI COLLABORATES WITH **MISSION FESTIVAL**

The Festival is a national event that aims to offer opportunities for reflection, celebration and involvement around the meaning and present and future developments of the Mission. The first Festival was held in Brescia in 2017, and the second in Milan in 2022.

The Festival is promoted by

- ◆ **Fondazione Missio.** It is a pastoral organization set up by the Italian Episcopal Conference in order to support and promote, also in collaboration with other entities, the missionary dimension of the Italian ecclesial community.
- ◆ **CIMI – Conference of Italian Missionary Institutes.**



SPAZIO SPADONI COLLABORATES WITH

ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

Economy of Francesco is an international movement of young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers committed to a young and vibrant process of inclusive dialogue and global change towards a new economy. It stems from a letter of Pope Francis dated 1 May 2019 in which he calls together those who are training to begin to practice a different economy: “Dear friends, I am writing to invite you to an initiative that I have longed for: an event that allows me to meet those who are training today and are beginning to study and practice a different economy, one that makes life and does not kill, includes and does not exclude, humanises and does not dehumanise, takes care of creation and does not plunder it. An event that helps us get together and get to know each other and leads us to make a ‘pact’ to change the current economy and give a soul to the economy of tomorrow...” (Pope Francis).

“The Global Event” 22/23/24 September 2022 - Assisi. The first meeting in presence for young people from more than 100 countries of the world called by Pope Francis to give a soul to the economy.

The 12 ‘EoF Villages’, i.e. the working sessions of community members on the major economic issues of today and tomorrow.

- ◆ FINANCE AND HUMANITY
- ◆ BUSINESSES IN TRANSITION
- ◆ CO2 OF INEQUALITY
- ◆ AGRICULTURE AND JUSTICE
- ◆ ENERGY AND POVERTY
- ◆ WOMEN FOR ECONOMY
- ◆ BUSINESS AND PEACE
- ◆ LIFE AND LIFE-STYLE
- ◆ WORK AND CARE
- ◆ POLICIES FOR HAPPINESS
- ◆ MANAGEMENT AND GIFT
- ◆ VOCATION AND PROFIT

Spazio Spadoni, a partner of the Economy of Francesco, contributed to the success of the course through two particular interventions

◆ “HIC SUM grants and startup funds” an application to support young people who recognise themselves in the Economy of Francis in collaborating to build or develop social enterprises in Africa, South America, Asia in connection with Religious Missionary Congregations of women within the framework of Spazio Spadoni’s HIC SUM project.

Two possible paths of participation

- development of its own start-up and its networking among HIC SUM project actors
- support to an existing and/or start-up social enterprise process also within the HIC SUM project.
- ◆ Provision of 40 participation grants for the Assisi event for young people with financial difficulties.



POSITIVE COMMUNICATION

Communication is first and foremost a privileged area of contact with religious congregations, associations, organisations and third sector entities in Italy and in the many “peripheries of the world”.

Spazio Spadoni is committed to supporting “positive communication” on Mission and Mercy with several actions

- ◆ advertising and announcements in the national newspaper “Avvenire” and other local and national newspapers;
- ◆ collaborations with national and - above all - regional TV stations;
- ◆ printing and dissemination of playbills, posters and other material consistent with the mission of Spazio Spadoni;
- ◆ promotion and support of specific publishing;
- ◆ cycles of remote training and testimonies (“I Martedì di Spazio Spadoni”) followed from different parts of the world;
- ◆ investment in social media, also easily accessible from abroad;
- ◆ production of information and illustrative material in different languages.



EMERGENCY SERVICES MUSEUM

“The project is by definition a work in progress, not a closed project. And the collaboration of everyone is important to make it grow more and more. Our strength lies in the combined will of everyone who wants to collaborate. For this reason, we welcome all reports of disused vehicles, in whatever condition they may be in, in order to evaluate their acquisition, conservation on loan, or in any other viable form that allows them to be saved; we also welcome photos, documents, uniforms, and materials with which we can hand down the memory of what those who came before us have done for the good and health of others.”

Alberto di Grazia

Headquarters - Berceto, Parma

A15 motorway 800 metres from the Borgotaro exit

- ◆ 7000 square meters, of which 3400 square meters is a covered exhibition space
- ◆ 78 vehicles (ambulances, water ambulances, fire trucks, police cars)
- ◆ Items originate from eight European and two North American countries
- ◆ Means range from 1942 to 2006
- ◆ Over 500 accessories, equipment, uniforms, and helmets

www.spaziospadoni.org



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