

THE REEVOLUTION OF THE WORKS OF MERCY

CANTIERE  CULTURALE

Preface by

His Excellency the Most Reverend Monsignor

Fortunatus Nwachukwu

Secretary of the Dicastery for Evangelisation

Section for First Evangelisation and New Particular Churches



Any practical action is inadequate if it does not include love for man, a sort of love that is nourished in the encounter with Christ. So, the intimate personal participation in the needs and sufferings of the other becomes a giving of myself: and because the gift does not humiliate the other, I must not only give him something of mine, but also of myself; I must be part of the gift as a person.

Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter Deus Caritas Est, 34

PREFACE

During the audience granted to the participants of the plenary session of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Fundamental Questions Section, in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican in March 2024, Pope Francis stated that 'God's mercy never fails, and we are called to bear witness to it and to make it, so to speak, circulate in the veins of the Church's body.' Indeed, it is crucial that Mercy and its Works circulate, move, flow, and furrow the roads where the Church walks in the world.

In this, spazio + spadoni with OPERA **M** and the dissemination tool, the reEvolution of the Works of Mercy, provides an important contribution. In concrete terms, they help us to never forget this human and spiritual urgency that is Mercy, they collaborate in keeping our continuous learning about the Works fruitful, always trying to update them, they foster the understanding of the profound intimate meaning of the Works imbued with the synthesis of spirit and practice.

To this fundamental dimension, a sphere of great need must be added in which the experience of spazio + spadoni is expressed, providing its own contribution in supporting the universal and planetary dimension of Mercy, as an experience that is fulfilled and regenerated every day thanks to the richness of gestures, actions, thoughts and prayers that are original and unique, because they are rich expressions of the variety of our world.

In fact, OPERA **M** on the one hand disseminates but on the other draws from the many wonderful presences, alive with virtuous life, that are present in so many parts of the world, even far away from Italy, and that receive and will receive this publication.

It is in this reciprocal exchange between the willingness to give strength to the Works of Mercy and the ability to welcome the fruits of these same Works that come from the experiences scattered around the world, that OPERA **M** di spazio + spadoni involved me in my brief but intense visit to Noto in Sicily in the summer of 2023. In the beautiful monastery of Santa Maria scala del Paradiso, they were talking about the reEvolution of the works of mercy and in this insightful narrative, I felt like a brother in the journey and, as far as I can, a fellow traveller.

This publication, I was made aware, is the fruit of long meditation and reflection in prayer. It was constructed, then rethought, then rested, then finally rewritten by a group of people from various parts of the world. Each with their own history, expertise, mission. It is therefore part of a journey that does not end but rather pushes for new beginnings.

May this publication be an extra incentive to see, show and show each other the face of Mercy. We need it as individuals and feel the urgency as women and men on this community journey in which spazio + spadoni with OPERA **M** is participating.

His Excellency the Most Reverend Fortunatus Nwachukwu
Secretary of the Dicastery for Evangelisation
Section for First Evangelisation and New Particular Churches

INTRODUCTION

This text and its contents were born out of the union of hearts of a small flock of women and men, inhabitants of spazio + spadoni from all over the world who gathered in the silence of a convent for a fortnight.

Animated by a profound missionary spirit, they wove their different cultures and experiences into a spirituality that generated the words of the works of mercy contained in this compendium.

Male and female religious congregations, presbyters, catechists, volunteers and social workers, together in this collective writing.

Luigi Spadoni

Inhabitants of spazio + spadoni

1

spazio + spadoni vision and mission

spazio + spadoni at a glance

spazio + spadoni is an organization that carries out missionary actions by promoting the dissemination of the works of mercy (WoM). It was founded and wanted by Luigi Spadoni.

We deeply believe that spiritual and corporal WoM, if fully lived, help us to be new men and women and become the compass that guides us on our journey towards the fullness of the Children of God.

spazio + spadoni

- Promotes and accompanies virtuous processes involving charitable organizations and missionary congregations in many parts of the world in order to carry out works of charity, in the name of mercy.
- It develops processes of renewed awareness and of learning capable of revealing how living the works of mercy is reEvolutionary in the lives of men and women, in every part of the world, from all walks of life and of all creeds.
- It designs and builds paths, actions and tools, which have the desire, humble and grandiose at the same time, to make us capable, through the works that are carried out, of a new flood of spiritual meaning of human action.

where it operates

spazio + spadoni has its headquarters in Italy, by the **Convent of San Cerbone** in Lucca. Here you can find lives and experiences of mercy and mission from all over the world; it is where the various initiatives and activities start from and are organized. The General Secretariat is located here, which is always active.

the vision in one sentence

spazio + generates actions of **mercy** and **mission** all over the world.

the mission in a nutshell

spazio + spadoni supports missionary congregations, promotes projects of mercy in mission lands, strengthens the cultural dimension of mission and mercy of charitable organizations, contributes to the promotion of WoM in the world.

2 OPERA M

CORPORAL

THERE ARE FOURTEEN WORKS OF MERCY

Feed
the hungry

Give drink
to the thirsty

Clothe
the naked

Host
pilgrims

Visiting
the sick

Visit
the prisoners

Bury
the dead

OPERA M

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

OPERA M

definition and content

It is the reEvolution of the works of mercy. It is the permanent instrument for the development of a strong and renewed thought of works in the world.

Counsel
the doubters

Teach
the ignorant

Admonish
sinners

Console
the afflicted

Forgive
offenses

Patiently put up with
troublesome people

Pray to God for the living
and the dead

It was born from an urgency strongly felt by spazio + spadoni to reEvolve the concept of the work of mercy as a path that is always human and divine at the same time, and therefore, always spiritual as well as practical (or corporal). The rediscovery, or rather, the true reEvolution of the works must be found within this synthesis between the spiritual aspect and the practical act. Material acting must always be permeated by the spirit.

SPIRITUAL



1 INVOKE
call upon
the Spirit

2 LISTEN
be quiet to open
yourself up to listening

3 MEET
be among people,
among people

4 LET'S OPERATE
acting
the Works

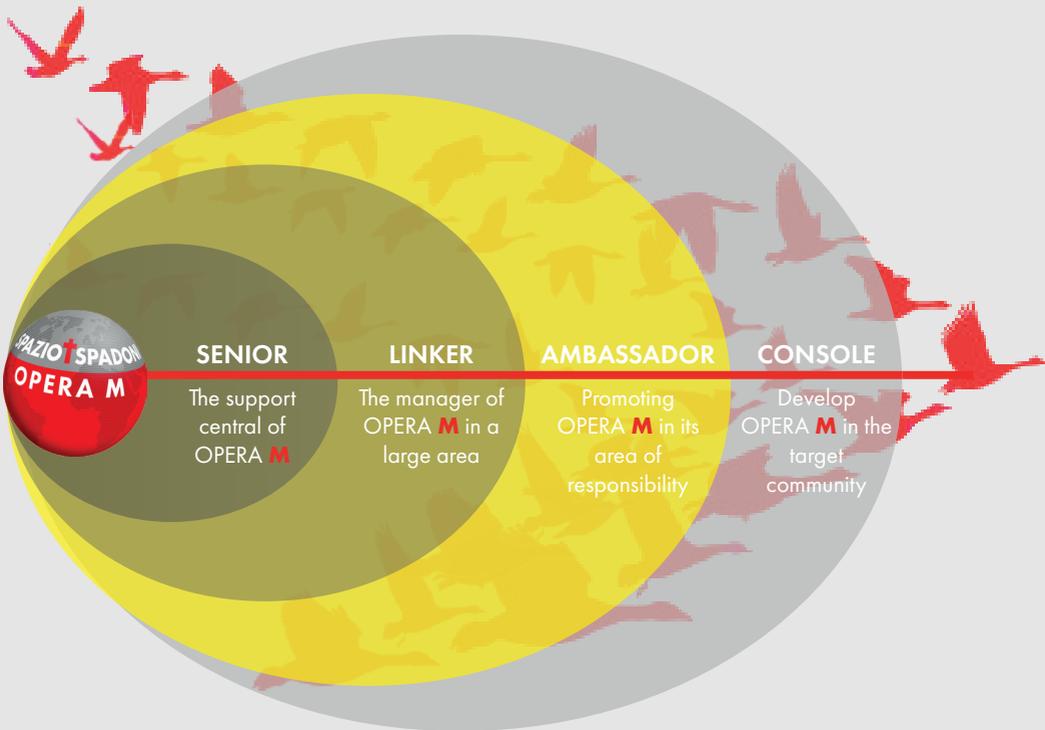
5 LET'S FLOOD
let's bring everyone
to the WoM

3 OPERA M

organization

OPERA M adopts the *ethics of flocks*. It is organized, moves and grows with everyone's contribution, like the circling of birds in the skies, where each one flies in unison with the others to become part of a single body. It is the perfect balance of this cohesion that gives the sense and strength of the whole. Like the flock, OPERA M is not hierarchical but distributes among all the burden and honour of building the flight design in the sky. A virtuous system in which it is enough to follow simple rules to achieve a collective movement.

On a day-to-day basis, OPERA M makes use of an organizational support designed so that activities can proceed constantly, quickly and effectively, without overlapping roles and for the common good.



The method in OPERA M is fundamental. It orients both the **attitude** of the operator towards the Works and **how** these Works are formed and shaped in the process. A process to be understood as active and in motion, from raising awareness in the territories to the construction of works of merciful community¹.

The ATTITUDE is for OPERA M the **approach** and the HOW is the **work in the field**.

APPROACH

The reference model of the OPERA M method is based on 4 key concepts

SYNODALITY

Synodality means building reflection, synthesis and proposals together with others, not as a simple gesture of respect but as an irreplaceable element of communion and sharing of the path of OPERA M.

Works of mercy are not generated except with a permanent desire for sharing, which requires time for mutual listening; care of relationships; ability to question one's own certainties in a true and generating encounter with the thought of the other.

ACCOMPANIMENT

The work is not done, it is lived together.

Accompanying means sharing the work as it unfolds, placing oneself in a condition of reciprocal and always new discovery with the work itself and the people who animate it.

To do this, we need to become aware of our own fragility and insecurity towards a reality that we can only truly understand through the experience of others. Only in this way it becomes an exchange between the fragile people, which places each one in the condition of giving and receiving at the same time.

¹ The Works of the merciful community, however, are "handcrafted": none of them is the same as the other; our hands can shape them with a common method, but each one acquires a different shape. And this is why we can give life to a true cultural reEvolution starting from having a methodological reference that is orienting and then acting and building a different "artifact" each time, with simplicity of gestures that know how to reach the body and the spirit at the same time, that is, people's lives.

THE TOOLBOX

spazio + spadoni has created and constantly feeds a plurality of operational tools and indications/suggestions available to everyone to promote OPERA M at different levels.

Most of these “tools” are multilingual.

Go to the appropriate section of the portal to see the updated composition of the “toolbox”.

THE FORM OF OPERA M

It is represented by a hand. Each finger of the hand leaves an **IMPRINT** that recalls a concept considered necessary and essential while working so that the action takes on a sense of fullness and is in return capable of positively influencing others.

The 5 **imprints** make up the **Shape of OPERA M**

- Invoke
- Listen
- Meet
- We operate
- We flood

To learn more about the form of OPERA M, you can visit the dedicated section on the website.

THE SYMBOL

The scarf is a distinctive element of the OPERA M volunteer and symbolizes their belonging, identity and value of the group. It consists of a square of fabric to be worn rolled up around the neck.

Wearing the scarf means joining and promoting merciful service, spiritual growth and commitment to spreading the works of mercy.

THE COLOURS OF OPERA M

- **RED** is the color of energy and strength. It is a push for the re**E**volution of the works of mercy tag.
- **WHITE** always represents a beginning: a blank page on which to start writing our story together.
- **GREY** is the colour of prayer and fraternal reciprocity at OPERA M.

THE MOTTO

"God's mercy is an action".

And the answer is:

"Always!".

The motto is expressed every time we say hello.

PRAYER OF THE ARTISANS OF THE WORKS OF MERCY

Lord make me a craftsman
of your mercy,
so that,
through corporal and spiritual works of mercy,
I bring the tenderness of your love
to those in need.
Amen!

JACULATORY

Spirit of mercy,
here I am,
animating our works



THE MERCY OF GOD IS AT WORK ALWAYS



PROMOTE YOUR CHARISMA IN 30 LANGUAGES ON SPAZIOPADONI.ORG

spaziospadoni.org



Partner



francescoeconomy.org



SPAZIO†SPADONI

GENERATES ACTIONS OF MISSION AND MERCY IN THE WORLD