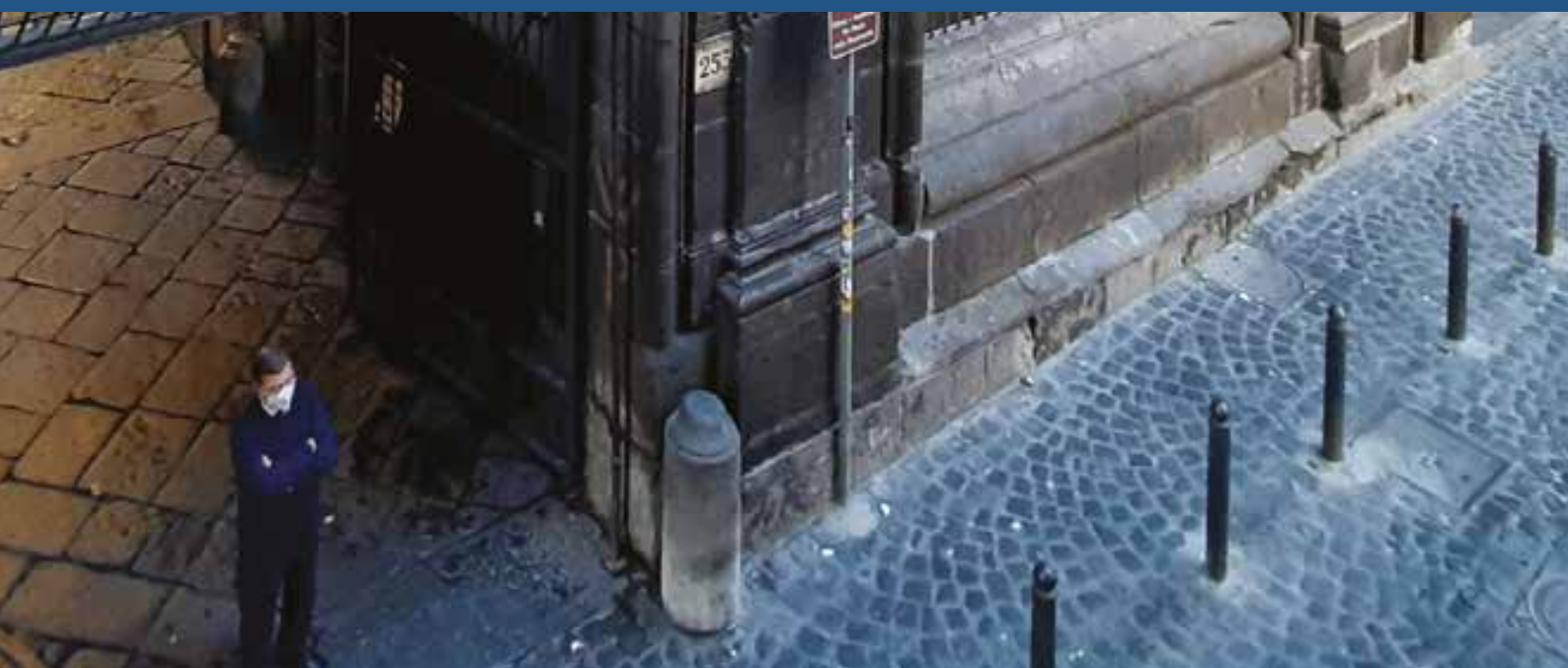




## The Pio Monte della Misericordia



# What is the Pio Monte della Misericordia



The **Pio Monte della Misericordia** is an association.

An **association** is a group of persons who do things together.

**7 lords from Naples made the Pio Monte della Misericordia Association a long time ago.**

The 7 lords came from 7 important families from Naples and used to ask rich people for money to help:

- the poor
- the very sick
- children who had no parents
- old and lonely persons
- persons in prison.

A prison is the place where the persons who behave very bad and don't respect rules go.

**The Pio Monte della Misericordia is called this way to remind the money collected by the 7 lords to do good things.**

To collect means to put together.

The Pio Monte della Misericordia helped people by making the **7 works of mercy** as written in one of the **Gospels**.

The 7 works of mercy are 7 good things that can be done to help people.

The Gospels are the books about Jesus' life.



The 7 works of mercy are:

1. Give food to those who are hungry.



2. Give drink to those who are thirsty.



3. Give clothes to those who haven't got any.



4. Help pilgrims.

Pilgrims are persons who travel a lot to go to faraway places and visit houses, churches and places where saints used to live.

Saints are very good persons who pray a lot and behave always.



5. Help sick people.



6. Visit persons who are in prison.

Prison is the place where the persons who behave very bad and don't respect rules go.



7. Bury dead persons.





Here you can see the **symbol** of Pio Monte della Misericordia.

A symbol is used to explain an idea by using drawings when that idea is important and difficult to understand by words.

In this symbol there are 7 mountains together.

On top of the biggest mountain there is a cross.



The 7 mountains are like:

- the 7 works of mercy
- the 7 lords who made the Pio Monte della Misericordia Association.



# The history of the Pio Monte della Misericordia

7 lords from Naples made the Pio Monte della Misericordia Association a very long time ago, more than 400 years ago.

An association is a group of persons who do things together.

Those 7 lords decided to make the Association

because there were many persons in Naples who needed help.



A short time later the Pio Monte della Misericordia had become very important and many persons asked to become part of the Association.

The Association became bigger and bigger and the 7 lords had to organize work for all the Association persons.



Each of the 7 lords became a Governor, the person who rules one of the 7 works of mercy.

One of the Governors, in turn, used to be responsible of the money collected by the Pio Monte della Misericordia.

That Governor decided how much money was to be used for each work of mercy.

After some time the Pio Monte della Misericordia had built many buildings where people could be helped:

- a hospital
- a house for old persons
- a house for children who had no parents
- a house to give food to poor persons.



Church



House of the Pio Monte

After some times, the Pio Monte della Misericordia also bought a palace to have a place where to meet. **On the ground floor of the palace a church was built where they could pray.**

**On the first floor the House of the Pio Monte was built.** Here, the Association persons used to meet and work together.

The Pio Monte della Misericordia still has its place in that palace. The Governors decided to make the palace even more beautiful.

Today the Pio Monte della Misericordia is still helping the persons who need help.



Every Friday the Governors meet at the House of the Pio Monte to organize the work for all the Association persons. The Governors group is called Government. Today you also can enter the Palace of Pio Monte della Misericordia and see what's inside.







## The Palace of Pio Monte della Misericordia

You can find the Palace of Pio Monte della Misericordia in the centre of Naples, in front of a little square called Sisto Riario Sforza.



This square is very important because there is one of the entrances of Naples Duomo.

The Duomo is the most important church in town.



The palace is a 3-floor building.  
Inside the palace there are:

- the church on ground floor
- the House of Pio Monte della Misericordia on floor 1, together with Quadreria halls  
The Quadreria is a place where they keep many paintings, furniture and objects
- the Historical Archive and the Library on floor 2.



Find out what the Historical Archive and the Library are on page 38



## The Pio Monte Historical Archive and Library



The **Historical Archive** is the place where all the important **documents** are kept. The documents are sheets where they wrote thing to be remembered.

At the Historical Archive of Pio Monte della Misericordia there are documents about:

- money collected by the Association
- how Pio Monte della Misericordia used the money they collected
- the donations made to the Association by rich people.

The **Library** is a place where there are many books.

Only those who study documents and books can enter the Pio Monte Historical Archive and the Library.



# Madonna della Misericordia



At the entrance of the church, you can see the **bas-relief** of **Madonna della Misericordia**.

Andrea Falcone made this bas-relief a long time ago.

A bas-relief is s a sculpture made on a stone piece.

It's called bas-relief because drawings seem to get out of the stone piece.

If you touch a bas-relief, you can fell the shape of the drawings with your fingers.





In the upper part you see the **Madonna** statue.

The Madonna is Mary, Jesus' mother.

The Madonna is holding Child Jesus and is sitting on clouds in the sky.

The Madonna is looking downwards.

Andrea Falcone painted the Madonna looking downwards to let you know that she's always looking at the persons who live on Earth to see if they are fine.

The Madonna cares about those who are sick and need help.



In the lower part you can see the drawing of 7 mountains with a cross on top.



This is the **symbol** of Pio Monte della Misericordia that reminds the 7 works of mercy.

A symbol is used to explain an idea by using drawings when that idea is important and difficult to understand by words.

Under the mountains you see a cloth drawing but made of stone.

On this part of the bas-relief, they wrote the history of Pio Monte della Misericordia.



Go left to enter  
the House of Pio Monte.

Go right to enter  
the church.

The Palace of Pio Monte della Misericordia is made this way  
to let you understand that praying is not enough  
if you want to be a good person.

You need to make good things also.

People go to church to pray.

People go to the House of Pio Monte to do good things.



## The artworks

