

# MERCY AS A CRUCIAL CONCEPT DEEPLY INGRAINED IN THE NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



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# CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

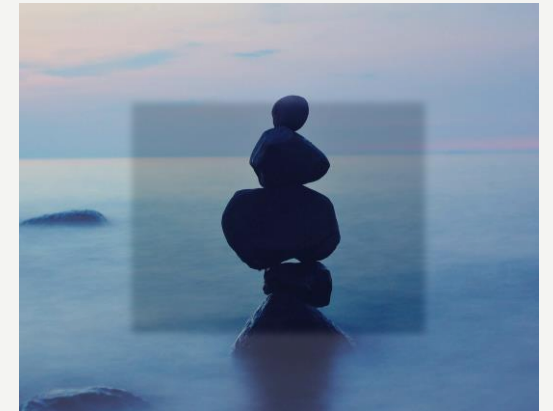
## Nursing care

Syncretism between

- Evidence-based action
- Humanization
- Ethics

# THE CONCEPT OF MERCY

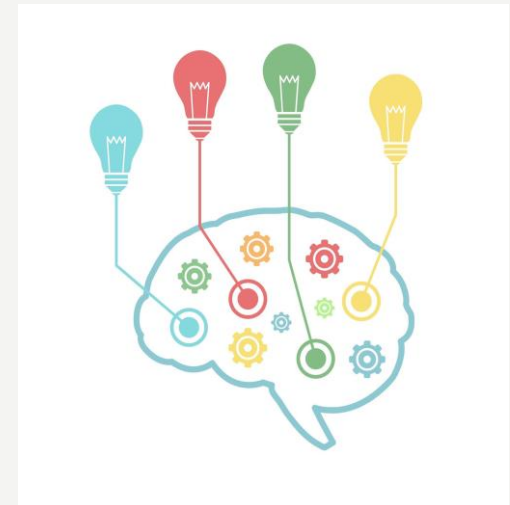
It is understood as a feeling of compassion for the misery and suffering of others, is pre-conceptually considered an essentially divine property, therefore the attempt to translate it on an ethical-practical level in the perspective of human solidarity and reciprocity and, especially for nurses, in the concreteness of professional behaviour in the different cultural contexts is complex.



# NURSING REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

The literature is unanimous in stating that the reflective practice accompanying nurses' decision-making always includes the ethical and merciful aspects of nursing care.

For this reason, the research team wanted to describe nurses' perceptions of the interconnections between mercy and ethics in the professional nursing practice.



## Materials and Methods

**Data collection:** On the occasion of the Jubilee Days of Mercy in Rome Italy

A described qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews with nurses

A list of themes was derived inductively: all interviews were recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed using the Framework Analysis proposed by Ritchie and Spencer (1994)

## Results

The recruited sample consisted of 71 nurses, predominantly female (67.6%), from central Italy (95.8%) and aged between 35 and 54 years (59.1%)

The thematic analysis (Ritchie and Spencer 1994) led to the identification of 3 main themes

# MAIN THEMES EMERGED

**"Mercy as the  
basis of the ethical  
behaviour"**

**"Mercy, ethics and  
respect for others as  
important elements  
of nursing practice"**

**"Mercy as an aspect  
of caring for people "**

Acceptance

Nursing

To care

Compassion

Mercy

Suffering

To cure

Help

Ethics

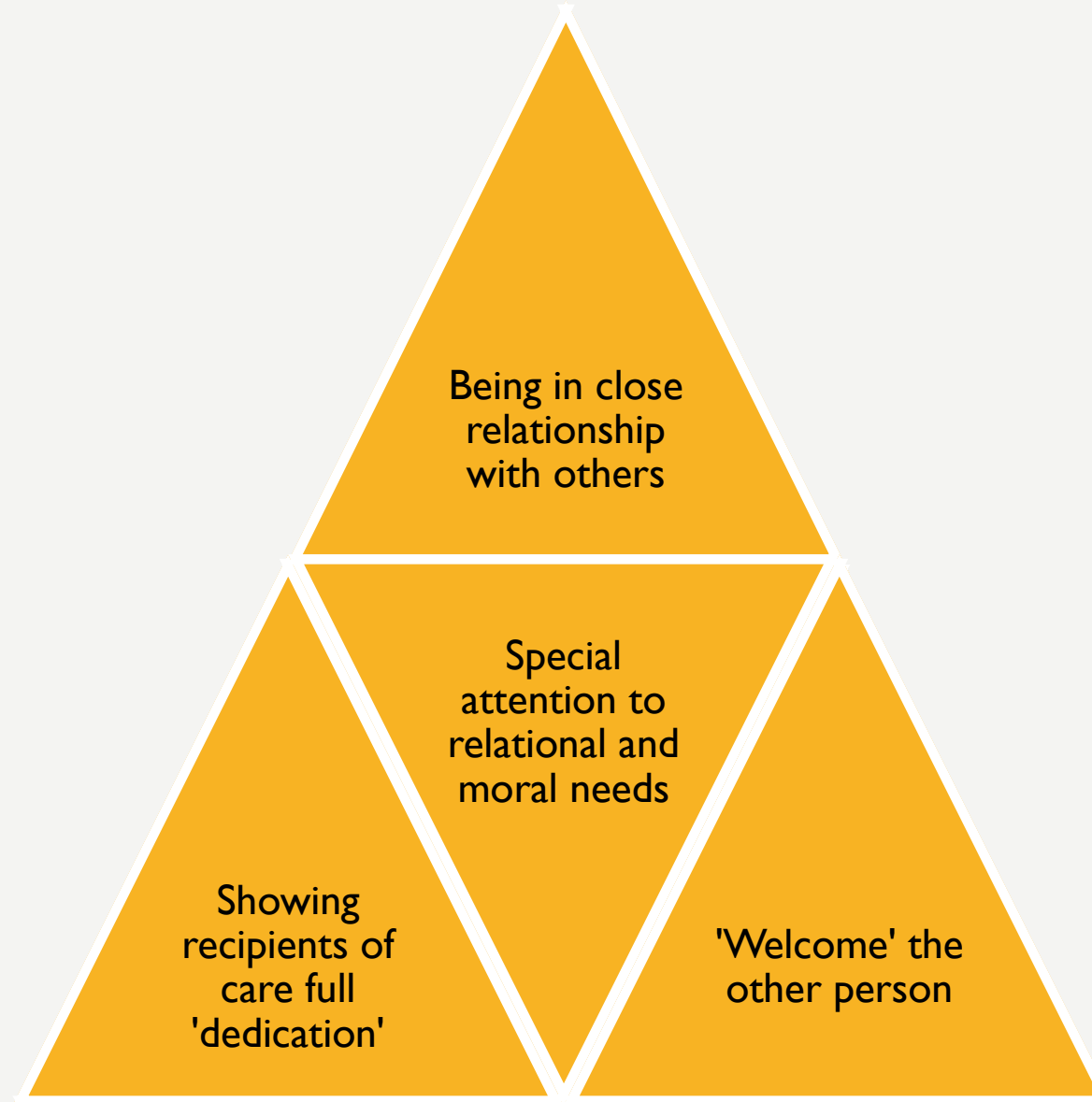
# DISCUSSION

The study showed that nursing care encompasses an established **dualism** between

Practical professional  
perspectives of care

Respect for the  
intrinsic essence of  
human beings

# MERCY FOR PATIENTS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN SIMPLE GESTURES





# DISCUSSION

From the words of the interviewed, it emerged clearly that there was a strong **link** between MERCY (understood in its broadest sense) and care.

To reach a common definition useful in defining the boundaries of such spirituality in caring for the other would enable the nurse to effectively meet all the needs of the patient (Monareng 2012).



- The primary mission of the nurse is precisely to take care of the person he or she cares for according to a holistic view.
- Nurses do not limit themselves to treating only the physical symptoms but strive to achieve something broader: the valorization of the global dimension of the individual.

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**THANKS FOR LISTENING**