



SISTERS

VS

NUNS



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The words 'sister' and 'nun' are often used interchangeably to describe women religious in the Catholic Church, but there are differences in the lifestyle, ministry, and vows of these unique vocations.

SISTERS



NUNS



Live in a convent, but minister and work in the world outside of their religious community

LOCATION

Live, minister, and pray within the enclosure of a monastery.



Take simple vows

- Taken publicly or privately
- Can be temporary or perpetual
- Permit ownership of property or estates but not their use or revenue

VOWS

poverty, chastity & obedience

Take solemn vows

- Taken publicly
- Perpetual; not temporary
- Must give up all worldly goods including estates, endowments, and inheritances



Live an active vocation of both prayer and service, taking the Gospel to and serving people where they are

MINISTRY

Devoted to a contemplative and cloistered life of meditation and prayer for the salvation of all



Learn more about how we support women religious: www.CatholicExtension.org/Sisters-Week

