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

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

**LOCATION**

**VOWS**
- Simple Vows:
  - Taken publicly or privately
  - Can be temporary or perpetual
  - Permit ownership of property or estates but not their use or revenue

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

poverty, chastity & obedience

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

- 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/SistersWeek

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