



FAQ: National Catholic Sisters Week

What is National Catholic Sisters Week?

[National Catholic Sisters Week \(NCSW\)](#) is a dedicated celebration of Catholic sisters intended to raise awareness of their vital contributions, both past and present. It is a national campaign that culminates annually from March 8 to 14.

When is National Catholic Sisters Week?

The dedicated week is March 8 to 14 every year.

Who is it for?

National Catholic Sisters Week is for everyone. Every American can be inspired or empowered by Catholic sisters. Our audience spans all ages and creeds, from seniors to Baby Boomers to teens, including Catholic sisters, parishes, colleges and religious communities. NCSW is also geared to young women who grapple with major life decisions and explore their spirituality; they can draw great strength and wisdom from Catholic sisters.

What is the purpose?

National Catholic Sisters Week is intended to broaden awareness of Catholic sisters, whose lives and ministries often remain behind the scenes. The hope is that those who learn more about women religious will be inspired and compelled to engage in self-reflection, service and simple acts of kindness. We also envision an outcome in which more young women consider religious life because they have been exposed to it through a personal relationship.

When did NCSW launch?

National Catholic Sisters Week debuted in March 2014.

How does NCSW relate to National Women's History Month?

National Catholic Sisters Week is an official component of Women's History Month. It was authorized by Molly Murphy MacGregor, co-founder of [National Women's History Project](#), who was educated and deeply influenced by Catholic sisters. In 1981, Women's History Month launched as a single week. By 1987, U.S. Congress formally expanded it to the full month of March.

Where is NCSW housed?

The National Catholic Sisters Week team is headquartered at [Saint Mary's University of Minnesota](#) in Minneapolis. Founded in 1912, Saint Mary's enrolls 5,800 undergraduate students in Winona, Mnn., and operates an acclaimed Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs based in Minneapolis but extending worldwide.

Who's in charge of NCSW?

The National Catholic Sisters Week team is led by Director Molly Hazelton, who works at St. Catherine University. Her talented staff includes media professionals and student interns. NCSW is supported by grant from the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#) awarded to [Alverno College](#) in Milwaukee, Wis., and distributed to several related initiatives, including NCSW, a diocesan partnership program and Latina outreach.



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Where is NCSW happening?

National Catholic Sisters Week is designed to be celebrated across the country. Check out the NCSW website (nationalcatholicsistersweek.org) for information and event listings. If an event hasn't been planned in your community, we encourage you to host one. The website offers an array of ideas to spark your creative juices and resources to help organize and publicize and event.

How can I participate?

Any time you tell the story or share the good work of a Catholic sister – whether through a one-one conversation, a blog post or a tweet – you are participating in NCSW. Participation is as simple as engaging online with NCSW. Follow our social channels to stay informed. You can also participate by attending an NCSW event or hosting your own, however big or small, in the spirit of celebrating women religious.

How does National Catholic Sisters Week relate to SisterStory?

[SisterStory](#) is a storytelling program chronicling the lives of Catholic sisters through photography, oral histories and online engagement. The intention is to demystify religious life – the vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience, the experience of living in community, the desire to belong totally to God – by sharing the stories of Catholic sisters.

SisterStory is the year-round continuation of [National Catholic Sisters Week](#), a week-long celebration celebrating the legacies and contributions of Catholic sisters through local community events and outreach, volunteer opportunities and social-media engagement.

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