



# GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

GSR: A PROJECT OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

July 2024



## Impact Report

A Decade of Sharing Stories of Catholic Sisters Around the World





# Global Sisters Report is 10!

For the past decade, we've been inspired by the lives and dedication of Catholic sisters around the world. Across countries and continents, women religious live out the Gospel message to "care for the least of these" in such amazing ways. We're thankful for the opportunity to share their stories, to explore trends in religious life and to provide a venue for sisters' reflections.

What started as a goal by National Catholic Reporter to write more stories about Catholic sisters has become a dynamic online publication with tens of thousands of monthly visitors. Through our stories and columns, Global Sisters Report fosters connections that help weave the "global sisterhood."

Over the past 10 years we've published thousands of stories and columns about these dynamic women who embody "faith in action." Catholic sisters aid victims of [human trafficking](#) and educate to prevent others from falling prey to traffickers. They counsel those in prisons and help them rebuild their lives after they are released. They assist [migrants and refugees](#), feed the hungry, nurse the sick, empower women and provide shelter to those who are [homeless](#). They advocate for the [Earth](#), for those who are made poor, for children, those with disabilities and others who are marginalized. They give hope by serving in areas of [conflict and turmoil](#). In their columns, they share insights about [spirituality](#), [ministries](#), [social justice](#) and [religious life](#). GSR chronicles changes in religious life and how congregations are seeking to maintain their charisms even as the number of members dwindle in some countries.

Measuring "impact" can be an elusive goal for any media organization. Yet through this report we can certainly show how Global Sisters Report has lifted the profile of Catholic sisters. We demonstrate our growth and share some of the highlights of the past 10 years. You'll see quotes gathered from readers who confirm that we've become much more than a news outlet. We are pleased to have become a community and a source of connection and spiritual renewal for sisters and others. Here's to the next 10 years!

Joe Ferullo, CEO and Publisher, National Catholic Reporter  
Gail DeGeorge, Editor, Global Sisters Report  
GSR Staff & Contributors





# Who We Are:

Global Sisters Report is an independent, nonprofit source of news and information about Catholic sisters and the critical issues facing the people they serve. Our network of journalists report about their lives and works, and sisters write commentary from their perspective. A project of National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company, Global Sisters Report is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. We launched on April 22, 2014.

**We are grateful for support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, the GHR Foundation for our GSR in the Classroom edition, and donations from readers.**



**88%** of readers read GSR more than once a week

**70%** of our readers identify as Catholic sisters



**200+** countries and territories contain GSR readers

**43%** of readers reside outside of the United States

**"They are the heart and soul of the Living Christ." - Ed Dilgen**

# Mission

Global Sisters Report is a dynamic online community that reports on and gives voice to women religious around the world.

**"By reading GSR I see the vital role women religious are playing around the world, translating the Gospel into action for justice."  
- Sr. Judith Best,  
School Sisters of Notre Dame**

# Values

## Integrity:

We are committed to thorough, objective reporting and fair-minded commentary. Our process is transparent.

## Diversity:

We respect and are inspired by the diverse experiences of sisters in a changing world.

## Community:

We believe the everyday lives of sisters are a model for strengthening networks and relationships.





## Core Content:

**Reported Stories:** Our international team of reporters and freelancers write about the missions and ministries of sisters and trends in religious life.

**Q&As:** Featured every week, these focus on individual sisters in a question and answer format.

**Sister-Written Columns:** More than 300 women religious from around the world, along with associates and oblates, regularly contribute columns on a variety of topics.

**Horizons Column:** Written by younger sisters and published every Friday.

**Dedicated Partnerships:** Matters India, Nun's Life Ministry.

**"The Life":** Monthly series featuring a diverse panel of international sisters who respond to a question about spirituality, ministry, religious life or other topics. A new panel is selected every year.

**Global Sisters Report en Español:** An award-winning version of GSR's website with stories and columns written in Spanish, launched in May 2023.



## E-Books:

[Hope Amid Turmoil](#)

[Seeking Refuge](#)

[A Place to  
Call Home](#)

[Advent E-Books](#)

## Special Series & Projects

Global Sisters Report often selects topics to emphasize as a special series in particular years. We cover these topics before and after these special projects, but they serve to focus our coverage and highlight the issue during that period of time.

**Women of Faith: Honoring Catholic Sisters Killed in Service in Africa:** In this special section of GSR, we remember and honor women of faith who died violently in Africa, their lives and ministries cut short by evil acts.

**Hope Amid Turmoil: Sisters in Conflict Areas:** This series covered the work sisters are doing in conflict areas all over the world, often helping to foster peace.

**A Place to Call Home:** This series showcased sisters' ministries with those who are homeless or lack adequate shelter.

**Sisters Against Human Trafficking:** This was a special focus within GSR's anti-trafficking coverage as Talitha Kum, a project of the International Union of Superiors General, organized as about 60 local networks in nearly 90 countries, celebrated its 10th anniversary.

**Seeking Refuge:** This series brought a sharper focus to the plight of refugees by following the journeys they make and the stages along the way.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** This collection categorizes stories and columns according to how the sisters' ministries and programs relate to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Resources:** A service to readers, instructors and students of our GSR in the Classroom curriculum, as well as researchers interested in topics related to Catholic women religious. It contains links to other organizations, websites and gathered lists of GSR articles on some notable topics.





## Awards & Recognition:

Global Sisters Report has won dozens of awards for its coverage of Catholic sisters, their ministries and trends in religious life. Our work has been recognized and honored by One World Media; Religion News Association, the Associated Church Press, the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Press Association, the Media Council of Kenya and the Religion Communicators Council.

Media outlets all over the world, such as The Washington Post, The Irish News, Herald Malaysia, Crux, The Tablet, Our Sunday Visitor, New Zimbabwe, Haiti Beat, Asia Catholic News Update, diocesan news outlets and more republish GSR content or cite it as a source, resulting in thousands of more readers. Sisters' congregations regularly request to reprint our stories and columns.

## So Much More...

**GSR in the Classroom:** This free curriculum project adapts GSR stories and columns for use as lessons, along with instructor guides, for Catholic middle and high school students.

**Witness & Grace Conversations:** A virtual series on topics related to GSR stories and columns.

**Community News:** Congregations and related organizations highlight their events, organizational changes, jubilees and more on our free Community News page.



## How We Started

Global Sisters Report has its origins in the effort by National Catholic Reporter to increase its coverage of Catholic sisters. Tom Fox, NCR publisher emeritus and former CEO of the National Catholic Reporter Publishing Co., in 2008 approached Sr. Joyce Meyer, who was then the executive director of the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, which provides grants for sister-led projects around the world, for funding to expand its coverage of Catholic sisters.

That led to a planning grant a few years later, and then a grant by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation in 2013 to launch Global Sisters Report. The Foundation has been the major funder for Global Sisters Report, along with the in-kind contribution that NCR provides, support from the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation and donations from readers.

## Making Connections:

### What Our Readers Say

**80%** say GSR has improved their sense of community

**79%** say GSR has helped them have a deeper connection to their faith

**58%** have developed a relationship or connection with a Catholic sister



"I am bolstered by the witness & presence of other women religious world wide." - Beth Kress, Presentation Sister from Dubuque, Iowa



**INTERCONNECTEDNESS**

**CONNECTION**

**INSPIRATION**



**HOPE**



**COMMON MINISTRY**



**COMMUNITY**

**WHAT GSR GIVES  
OUR READERS**

**GLOBAL SISTERHOOD**



**SOLIDARITY**



**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**AWARENESS**

**SHARED EXPERIENCES**

"Sense of awe and pride at hearing how my sisters are meeting needs, taking risks and touching lives throughout the world."  
- Madonna O'Hara, Ursuline sister

"Your article on trafficking inspired me to become involved. I am proud of all the hard work the sisters do to help these women and girls."  
- Maggie S.


Want to see more about Global Sisters Report's impact and the connections it weaves through the "global sisterhood?" Visit our [10th Anniversary page](#).


**50,000+** website visitors per month

**5,000,000+** website visitors since 2014



**30,000+**  
email subscribers

 [info@globalsistersreport.org](mailto:info@globalsistersreport.org)

 [@sistersreport](https://twitter.com/sistersreport)



**25,000+**  
followers across all  
social media platforms

 [facebook.com/sistersreport](https://facebook.com/sistersreport)

 [instagram.com/sistersreport](https://instagram.com/sistersreport)

Throughout 2023, GSR readers were surveyed several times. We've used the data and quotes for this impact report. Other numbers come from Google Analytics and MailChimp.