

Sisters of the Valley Launch Federally Recognized Nonprofit Ministry

Their Mission is to Develop Affordable Urban Housing

MERCED, CA, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Sisters of the Valley have officially launched the Sisters of the Valley Ministry, a federally recognized nonprofit organization that gives independent structure to the spiritual, charitable and community work that has grown alongside the Sisters' commercial enterprise for more than a decade.

The Sisters formed a California non-profit on May 19th of this year, and just last week, they received their IRS determination letter, recognizing the Ministry's federal tax-exempt status. Contributions to the Ministry are tax-deductible, opening an entirely new avenue of community support for the Sisters' charitable mission.



July 2026 Removing the Trash Along the Merced River

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A matriarchy is not the patriarchy in pumps.”

Sister Hilda

At the center of that mission is an ambitious goal: grow the Sisterhood while developing a replicable solution to affordable housing in urban communities.

The Sisters call the concept urban sanctuaries — affordable residential communities designed around private homes and shared resources, with solar power, gardens, community kitchens, gathering areas and spaces for education, ceremony and service.

The concept draws inspiration from the medieval *béguinages*, where communities of women owned property, supported themselves economically and created lives together outside the conventional institutions available to women of their time. The modern version is neither a commune nor an institution. It is a village adapted for the twenty-first century.

The public home of the new organization is the newly completed Ministry website. The site is rich in materials pulled from 'The Book of the New Beguines', which is the bible of the sisterhood. Website visitors can explore the Sisters' beliefs and spiritual practices, learn about the Ministry's mission and governance, read its prayers and teachings, explore membership, understand the paths available to people who want to become more deeply involved, learn about the Sisters themselves, review the organization's plans, and support the work through tax-deductible contributions. The site also introduces the Ministry's vision for sanctuary-centered affordable housing and the larger community model the Sisters hope to build around it.

For people who have followed the Sisters for years and wondered whether there was a way to participate without becoming a Sister, there is now an answer. The doors are open.

The Ministry grew out of more than a decade of communal life, spiritual practice, activism, plant medicine, business adversity and an increasingly obvious realization: the culture developing among the Sisters was larger than the company that supported them. Rather than attempt to compress that history into a press release, the Sisters have published three articles telling the story in full, all available in the library of the new website:

www.sotvministry.org

[Why the Sisters of the Valley Created a Ministry](#)

The first article tells the origin story: how a group known internationally for its plant-based wellness business developed a spiritual culture capable of surviving crises that repeatedly threatened the company itself — and why the Sisters ultimately decided that culture needed a permanent home independent of the business.



A Model of Community Living

CORE BELIEFS

- * We attune our lives to the cycles of the Moon and the rhythms of nature.
- * We accept our responsibility to protect and live in harmony with Mother Earth.
- * We recognize a Greater Power and the sacred connectedness of all life.
- * We honor both the physical and spiritual worlds.
- * We seek to live intentionally, wisely, and without harm.
- * We honor our ancestors, those living today, and the generations yet to come.
- * We reject power gained through the suffering or victimization of people, plants, or land.
- * We respect all spiritual paths that respect the freedom and dignity of others.

www.sotvministry.org

Core Beliefs

[What Does a Matriarchal Ministry Look Like?](#)

The second examines what the Sisters mean when they describe the Ministry as matriarchal. The Sisters reject the idea that matriarchy means replacing male domination with female domination. As the Sisters are known to say, 'A matriarchy is not a patriarchy in pumps.' The article explores historical matriarchal societies, the Sisters' connection to the medieval Beguines, the relationship between spirituality and service, and the thinking that ultimately leads to the Ministry's vision for modern urban sanctuaries.

[A Ministry Without a Pulpit](#)

The third article asks what ministry looks like when it is not centered around a church building, a preacher or a weekly service. Drawing partly on the long history of Indigenous spiritual traditions that locate prayer and ceremony in relationship with land, nature and community, the Sisters describe a Ministry intended to go where people are rather than requiring people to come to it.

It also explains how people can participate in the Ministry, how the path toward Sisterhood works, and how community-based work can eventually contribute to the larger affordable-housing mission. Its conclusion summarizes the philosophy simply: The pulpit is wherever the work is.

The Sisters envision the Ministry operating border to border across the United States, with individual state chapters and communities shaped by local needs while remaining connected through shared beliefs, governance and mission. The vision is also already extending beyond the United States, with independent nonprofit organizations being developed in Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Colombia. The international organizations will operate according to the laws of their own countries while remaining connected to the larger spiritual movement and its mission.

At home, the Sisters see the affordable-housing crisis as a mission that translates almost anywhere. There is virtually no American town or city untouched by the rising cost of housing. The Ministry's long-term goal is therefore not to build one sanctuary in California and declare victory, but to develop a model that can eventually be adapted by communities elsewhere.

The Sisters have spent more than a decade supporting their work through commerce. The nonprofit Ministry creates a different financial path and gives the organization access to grant-making and philanthropic opportunities that were never available to the Sisters' commercial company. The Sisters have spent years proving that an unconventional community of women can survive. Now they intend to use what they learned to help build communities in which other people can thrive.

About the Sisters of the Valley Ministry

The Sisters of the Valley Ministry is a federally recognized tax-exempt nonprofit organization established in California by the Sisters of the Valley. The Ministry provides an independent home for the Sisters' spiritual, charitable and community work and supports a mission of growing the Sisterhood while developing sanctuary-centered approaches to affordable urban housing.

Sister Kate

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