

## **Differents between convents and monasteries and abbeys**

Convents are usually houses of active sisters, though I have heard references to a "Carmelite convent" of cloistered nuns. Until recent times convents described houses of contemplative religious.

Abbeys are usually if not exclusively of Benedictines. The reason that Mother Angelica is called an abbess, is because the Rule that the Poor Clares follow refers to the superior as an abbess. The reason for that, is because the Rule was based on (as most subsequent western communities were) the Benedictine Rule, which prescribes abbots/abbesses. Before making profession in the second order of Saint Francis, Saint Clare was formed in a Benedictine convent. That could be a reason why. In order for a monastery to be an abbey, it must be declared so by Rome.

Priories are houses of mendicants, especially Dominicans. They can also be of Benedictines waiting to become an abbey, or they can house other communities like the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem, which is an Augustinian community.

Monasteries house those following a monastic rule, or following the monastic life... like the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. They can be of men or women, e.g. a Carmelite Monastery.

Ref.: <http://www.phatmass.com/phorum/index.php?showtopic=48079>