

CHURCH OF SAINT CUTHBERT

Symbol: A four-pointed starburst

Background and Goals: The Church of Saint Cuthbert is the dominant faith in the Viscounty of Verbobonc. Officially recognized as the state church of the land, the Cuthbertines make much of their privilege to spread the faith of the Cudgeller across the Viscounty and bring the wayward into line. Priests of Saint Cuthbert is versed at spreading the doctrine of the faith across the Viscounty. Their discipline and pragmatic view resonates with the hard-working common folk of the land. A great rivalry is known to exist between followers of Pholtus and Saint Cuthbert, and lately there has been conflict with the followers of Tritheon.

Members: Most members of the Church of Saint Cuthbert are clerics. The Church of Saint Cuthbert defines a cleric as a character with the majority (over 50%) of non-prestige class levels in the Cleric class.

Members that leave the Church are looked upon with concern and suspicion, but will not be denied the services of the church—provided that they have not fallen into unlawful ways. However, members that leave the Church and then desire to return must first petition Bishop Haufren for approval to be readmitted.

All members that receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert belong to one of three religious Orders. These Orders are described in further detail in the **Membership Options** section.

Type: Religious

Scale: 11 (regional [Verbobonc])

Affiliation Score Criteria: The Church of Saint Cuthbert is open to all non-chaotic characters that have Verbobonc as their home region and have Saint Cuthbert as their patron deity. Characters that do not receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert may not rise above the rank of **Congregant**. Those that receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert (such as clerics, favored souls, paladins, and so forth), may rise to the rank of **Priest**, but only clerics may rise to the level of **Canon**.

Criterion (One Time)	Modifier
Character level	+½ PC's level
Levels in cleric or paladin	+1/level
Levels in Church Inquisitor ^{CD} or a prestige class granted by membership in your chosen Order (see Membership Options).	+2/level
Possesses the Law Inviolable RD feat or the True Believer ^{CD} feat (must choose Saint Cuthbert as your deity)	+3/feat
Ranks in Knowledge [Religion]	+½/rank
Can cast divine spells of 3 rd level or higher ⁽¹⁾	+2
Can cast divine spells of 5 th level or higher ⁽¹⁾	+3
Non-lawful alignment	-4
Criterion (Multiple Occurrence)	Modifier
Plays a Verbobonc regional adventure or a Velverdyva Trade Route metaregional adventure as a member of the Church of Saint Cuthbert. ⁽²⁾	+½/TU
Plays an adventure that directly involves the Church of Saint Cuthbert listed as a metaorganizational focus. ⁽²⁾	+1/TU
Breaks a law, or fails to report, investigate, or apprehend criminals or criminal activity ⁽³⁾	-2
Fails to tithe or serve the church after an adventure set in Verbobonc ⁽³⁾	-5
Acts against alignment ⁽⁴⁾	-10

Notes:

1. This bonus overlaps (does not stack). If earned multiple times, only the highest bonus is applied.
2. This bonus overlaps (does not stack). If earned multiple times, only the highest bonus is applied.
3. This penalty increases cumulatively by -1 for each instance. If this reduction results in a lost of rank, the character loses all divine powers granted by Saint Cuthbert, and all benefits granted by this metaorganization. An *atonement* spell cast by a Priest of Saint Cuthbert is required to regain the divine powers and metaorganizational benefits.
4. Cannot improve Affiliation score until undergoing *atonement* from a Canon of Saint Cuthbert (or higher).

Titles, Benefits and Duties: As you advance in the Church of Saint Cuthbert, you learn to prosecute the will of Saint Cuthbert and your superiors within the lands of Verbobonc as well as beyond. You cannot use any benefit if it would result in demotion to a lower tier.

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Score Title: Benefits and Duties (benefits and duties are cumulative)

3 or lower No affiliation

4-10 Congregant/Initiate: The Church of Saint Cuthbert welcomes you as a faithful follower and admonishes you to be vigilant against corruption, lawlessness, and sloth. Characters that do not receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert are known as **Congregants**, while those that do are known as **Initiates**. You receive the following benefits during any Verbobonc regional adventure. Benefits marked with a dagger (†) are only available to **Initiates**.

- **Associated Skills:** The following skills are associated with the Church of Saint Cuthbert: Knowledge [Religion]. You receive a +2 circumstance bonus to skill checks made with your associated skills
- **Divine Spellcasting:** You are granted the free casting of Open divine spells of levels 1-3 from an attending cleric of Saint Cuthbert. This does not extend to any of your companions, and all costs for material components must be provided by you.
- **Dwelling†:** Should you move to a town in the Verbobonc Town Project, you are provided with a Residence [Simple House] to serve as rectory. This residence belongs to the church and is lost should you leave the Church of Saint Cuthbert. You do not need to pay any annual taxes on the residence. For more information on Residences, see *Verbobonc Town Project: Player's Guide and Sourcebook*.
- **Equipment Purchases:** You may purchase the following equipment at a 20% discount: chain mail, full plate, heavy mace, holy water sprinkler ^{LM}, priest's bullet ^{LM}, and signature ring ^{RS}
- **Feat†:** You gain access to the Law Inviolable RD feat.
- **Influence:** You may use your affiliation as influence with the Church of Saint Cuthbert. Spending 1 Affiliation points earns you 1 standard Influence point with the Church of Saint Cuthbert. You can likewise convert Influence Points into Affiliation points using the same ratio.

Serving the Church: The Church of Saint Cuthbert expects the faithful to serve and give back to the community, either by helping perform duties around the church, or by tithing gold to help the church fulfill its mission. You must spend 1 additional TU after each Verbobonc regional adventure or VTF metaregional adventure. Alternatively, you may pay 5% of gold earned (as circled on the Level of Play section on your Adventure Record).

11-25 Priest: You have been promoted in the Church and received greater authority over the spiritual flock of the Viscounty. You receive the following benefits during any Verbobonc regional adventure.

- **Associated Skills:** Your bonus increases to +3.
- **Divine Spellcasting:** This now includes 4th level Open divine spells.
- **Dwelling:** Your dwelling is upgraded to a Residence [Grand House]. This residence may be customized according to your preferences, but it must include a Chapel component.
- **Influence:** You may now spend 1 Affiliation point to earn 2 standard Influence points with the Church of Saint Cuthbert. Additionally, you may spend 1 Affiliation point in lieu of paying Time Units for purposes of meeting the requirements for **Serving the Church**.

26+ Canon: You are vested with the authority of the Church itself and have been promoted to Canon. The Canon stands as an unswerving example of the faith and power of Saint Cuthbert in the Viscounty. You receive the following benefits during any Verbobonc regional adventure.

- **Associated Skills:** Your bonus increases to +4.
- **Divine Spellcasting:** This now includes 5th level Open divine spells.
- **Dwelling:** Your dwelling is upgraded to a Residence [Manse]. This residence may be customized by you, but it must include a Chapel component.
- **Ecclesiastical Access:** You are treated as a member of all Verbobonc religious metaorganizations for purposes of item access in the Items Found During the Adventure Record section of Verbobonc regional adventure records.
- **Influence:** You may now spend 1 Affiliation point to earn 3 standard Influence points with the Church of Saint Cuthbert.



This certificate is the property of the Verbobonc Triad and may be amended, changed, revoked, or rescinded at any time. The certificate must be returned to the Verbobonc Triad upon request. This certificate has \$0 cash value and cannot be traded, sold, or given away. If access to the benefits on this certificate are lost, void should be written across the text of this certificate.

This certificate certifies that

A character played by

Signature of Player

RPGA Number

Date

AR

Has fulfilled the requirements for membership in this Verbobonc regional metaorganization. Membership must be renewed annually at the beginning of each calendar year. Keep all previous certificates of membership along with this one so an accurate account of your membership can be verified.

Signature of DM

RPGA Number

Date



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Characters that receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert also wield temporal authority in Verbobonc, as they are only ones officially recognized to cast spells on behalf of law enforcement (Mounted Borderers, etc) to gather evidence. Spells cast by priests of other faiths cannot be used as evidence.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

The hierarchy of Saint Cuthbert is divided into three priestly Orders. Characters that receive divine power from Saint Cuthbert are required to join one of these Orders upon attaining the rank of Initiate. Congregants may not join these Orders.

Once you have chosen an Order, you are a member of that order for the duration of your membership with the Church of Saint Cuthbert and may only change to a different Order with the permission of Bishop Haufren, head of the Church of Saint Cuthbert in Verbobonc. In campaign terms, you must have regional documentation issued from the Verbobonc Triad permitting you to transfer to a different Order.

Order of the Billet

Charged with the protection of the faithful and ministering to needs, members of this order are ardent defenders of the common folks and brook no evil in their midst. They dress in simple brown and russet garments and their holy symbols bear the form of an oaken or bronzed wood billet. Members of this Order receive the following additional benefits and duties:

- ❖ **Alternate Class Ability:** You may spend 1 Affiliation point to gain access to one of the following class abilities: Deity's Favor ^{PH2}, Spontaneous Domain Casting ^{PH2}. You may do this multiple times, each time spending 1 Affiliation point to choose another class feature.
- ❖ **Associated Skills:** The following are added to your list of Associated Skills: Heal, Knowledge [Local—VTF]. Each time you gain a level, you must place at least one (1) skill point into one of your Associated Skills.
- ❖ **Equipment Purchases:** Your discount for equipment purchases extends to all items listed in the *Player's Handbook*.
- ❖ **Favored Soul:** The Order of the Billet counts a large number of Favored Souls as their members. Levels in Favored Soul are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert and for purposes of earning Affiliation points.
- ❖ **Ministry to the Flock:** Once per adventure set in any region that is a part of the Velderdyva Trade Route, you must give a sermon on the virtues of leading an honest life with an emphasis on the values promoted by Saint Cuthbert. Failure to do so results in a loss of 1 Affiliation point per instance. If your sermon results in the conversion of a non-player character to the faith of Saint Cuthbert, you gain 1 Affiliation point.
- ❖ **Shadowbane Stalker:** Members of the Order of the Billet that have reached the rank of Priest of higher receive access to the Shadowbane Stalker ^{CV} prestige class. It costs you 4 TU the first time you gain levels in this prestige class, and 1 TU each time you gain an additional level. Levels in Shadowbane Stalker are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert.

Order of the Chapeaux

Members of this order are the orators and public speakers of the Church, charged with converting people to the faith of Saint Cuthbert. They dress in varying garb, but all wear a crumpled hat of some kind. Members of this Order receive the following additional benefits and duties:

- ❖ **Alternate Class Ability:** You may spend 1 Affiliation point to gain access to one of the following class abilities: Curse Breaker ^{CM}, Spontaneous Domain Casting ^{PH2}. You may do this multiple times, each time spending 1 Affiliation point to choose another class feature.
- ❖ **Associated Skills:** The following are added to your list of Associated Skills: Diplomacy, Perform (Oration). Each time you gain a level, you must place at least one (1) skill point into one of your Associated Skills.
- ❖ **Missionary to the Heathen:** You are charged with bringing new converts to the faith of Saint Cuthbert. Once per adventure set in any region that is a part of the Velderdyva Trade Route, you must speak with another individual and attempt to convert them to the faith of Saint Cuthbert. Failure to do so results in a loss of 1 Affiliation point per instance. If your sermon results in the conversion of a non-player character to the faith of Saint Cuthbert, you gain 1 Affiliation point.
- ❖ **Paladins:** Many paladins are members of the Order of the Chapeaux, due to their natural affinity for diplomacy and oration. Levels in paladin are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert. Furthermore, a paladin that reaches 8th level may summon a dire lion as a bonded mount. You lose this mount if you leave the Order of the Chapeaux.
- ❖ **Shining Clubs and Shining Maces:** Levels in Shining Blade of Heironeous (Saint Cuthbert variants—see *LG Deities Document 2.0*) are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert.

Order of the Stars

Those of this order wear dark green robes that bear a starburst holy symbol of copper (for initiates), gold (for priests), or platinum (for canons and higher). They are charged with preserving the doctrinal purity of Saint Cuthbert's teachings and rooting out corruption wherever it may be found. They are strident in their quest to drive infidels and heretics from their midst. Members of this Order receive the following additional benefits and duties:

- ❖ **Alternate Class Ability:** You may spend 1 Affiliation point to gain access to one of the class abilities: Curse Breaker ^{CM}, Divine Counterspell ^{CM}. You may do this multiple times, each time spending 1 Affiliation point to choose another class feature.
- ❖ **Associated Skills:** The following are added to your list of Associated Skills: Intimidate, Sense Motive. Each time you gain a level, you must place at least one (1) skill point into one of your Associated Skills.
- ❖ **Aura of Disquiet:** Members of the Order of the Stars unnerve people with their penetrating gaze, stern countenances, and suspicious natures. You suffer a penalty equal to your Associated Skill bonus when making any Charisma-based skill check except Intimidate.
- ❖ **Defender of the Faith:** You are charged with safeguarding the faith the theology of Saint Cuthbert against corruption from both without and within. This mandate requires you to investigate all charges of heresy, dissent by hostile religions, and allegations of corruption. Those faiths with a seat on the Council of Abbots are generally viewed as trustworthy (although the Stars frequently clash with the Church of Tritheon and the Church of Pholtus). Failure to perform these duties results in a loss of 3 Affiliation points per instance, with repeated violations begging grounds for expulsion from the Order. If your investigation reveals corruption, you gain 4 Affiliation points.
- ❖ **Shadowbane Inquisitor:** Members of the Order of the Stars that have reached the rank of Priest of higher receive access to the Shadowbane Inquisitor ^{CV} prestige class. It costs you 4 TU the first time you gain levels in this prestige class, and 1 TU each time you gain an additional level. Levels in Shadowbane Inquisitor are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert.
- ❖ **Church Inquisitor:** You are considered to have uncovered corruption for purposes of qualifying for access to the Church Inquisitor prestige class. Levels in Church Inquisitor are treated as levels in cleric for purposes of qualifying for rank within the Church of Saint Cuthbert.

Other Orders

There are rumors of other, more exclusive, orders within the Church, but these have not been confirmed. Those that inquire about them tend to receive stern looks and admonishments to tend to their own duties.