

CHURCH NOTES

This update sheet looks at different types of Church buildings and the various roles held by administrative and ecclesiastical members of the Third Reformation Church.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

Although Knights spend most of their time either at their Preceptory or on the battlefield, there are times when they must deal with the local populace beyond its boundaries. In these instances, they may have cause to visit Church buildings.

ABBEY

A monastery or convent governed by an abbot or abbess.

BASILICA

A large or important church granted dispensation to hold special rites, such as ordination of an archbishop or cardinal or the function of the bishop's court. The title replaces the usual one (so the Church of St. Boniface is referred to as the Basilica of St. Boniface once granted special dispensation).

CATHEDRAL

A church which serves as seat of a bishop or archbishop. Though many are large, imposing churches, rural cathedrals may be nothing more than parish churches afforded the higher title.

CHAPEL

A place of worship, often part of a larger structure or complex (including churches and Preceptories). They differ from churches in that they are not counted as parish churches and therefore collect no tithes.

CHURCH

Any sanctified building for conducting Church rites. Parish churches have the right to collect tithes. A parish church may encompass an entire community (notably in rural areas) or part of a large town or city, generally serving a given district.

MONASTERY

A building or complex inhabited and run by monks. Convents serve a similar function but house nuns (also known as a nunnery). Monasteries are subservient to the local abbey of the same order of monks or nuns.

ORATORY

A prayer room, found in most places of worship.

OSSUARY

A room where bones are stored. Most often the ossuary is within a larger religious building.

SHRINE

A holy place containing the relics or image of a saint or martyr and dedicated to that person. Most are located within other religious structures, but a small number are separate buildings. Shrines attract pilgrims and are considered good sources of revenue for the Church.

Many shrines in populous areas have devolved into little more than tourist attractions, offering souvenirs, such as replica relics, postcards, and even mugs and T-shirts. Very few actual religious ceremonies are held in these places, though for a small donation pilgrims can say prayers with the local priest.

NECROPOLIS 2350

CHURCH ROLES

In addition to the roles referenced in *Necropolis*, there are a number of other notable dignitaries with whom Knights may come into contact during a mission.

ABBOT/ABBESS

Head of a monastery or convent respectively. They hold no temporal or religious power outside the monastery and its feudal lands, if any.

Abbots answer to the local archbishop, as their rank places them on par with bishops.

ARCHDEAN

Head of a local Curial office situated in an archbishop's seat of power.

ARCHPRIEST

A priest who governs multiple parishes. Typically these are found in rural areas.

Unsurprisingly, a CIS investigation has revealed heretical activity is higher in areas with an archpriest. Their report concludes this is down to a "lack of constant spiritual supervision among the masses." Appropriate steps are being taken to eliminating this position from the Church.

CHAPLAIN

As well as serving the Ordines, Chaplains also care for the spiritual needs of citizens living on Ordo lands. In these instances, they take the title Chaplain-Priest.

They answer to the Preceptor Chaplain, not the local Church dignitary. As with many things, this is an issue of contention between the Church and the Ordines.

DEACON

A priest who serves a bishop by leading ceremonies at his cathedral in lieu of the bishop. Officially he has no powers to speak for the bishop in other matters, but many bishops formally appoint their deacon as their right hand man.

An archdeacon serves in the same manner for an archbishop.

DEAN

Head of a local Curial office situated in a bishopric. Deans answer to the local archdean.

FATHER/MOTHER SUPERIOR

The head of a monastery or convent, subservient to the local abbot or abbess.

NUNCIO

A Church diplomat within the Office of Corporate Liaison. The feminine form is nuncia. Diplomatic aides are accorded the title Nuncio-Monsignor. Senior aides add the word "Senior."

PRIMICERIUS

While cardinals are overall head of a Curial department, the daily running is often left to the primicerius, the cardinal's right-hand man.

SECRETARY

Head of a Curial sub-office. First tier secretaries are called First Secretary, heads of the next tier down are Second Secretaries, and so on.

For instance, the head of the Office of Public Records is a cardinal. The heads of the Offices of Births, Death, Marriages, and so on are first secretaries. Below each of these is a Second Secretary for every archbishopric and Commanderie.

<TITLE>-IN ABSENTIA

A suffix added when the local dignitary is not present on a regular basis. This is often use in the remoter parts of Church territory, where settlements are widely scattered.

It most commonly applies to bishops and archbishops (who would rather be near the center of power than stuck out in the wilds). Such dignitaries visit their province only rarely, preferring to leave matters in the hands of subordinates.

Also applies to bishop's and archbishop's designated governance over churches in Union zones.

For instance, the archbishop of the Corporate city of New Pittsburgh (who resides in Vatican City), carries the title Archbishop-in Absentia of New Pittsburgh.