

## Dungeons and Dragons

### The Order of the Blue Cross

What heralded the end of the Old Age was the arrival of the New Gods, and their arrival was designated by a new constellation forming in the sky; that of five stars arranged in the shape of a cross. The light that shone from this stars was blue, hence the name The Blue Cross. When the New Gods defeated the Old Gods, the Cross shone brightly in the night sky, and did so until the first full moons, when the Old Gods revived themselves in a state of Undeath, now claiming to be the Dead Gods, and brought with them an army of the dead.

For years the dead plagued the land until one day, Sivikjin, the Goddess of Light, blessed a band of heroes with the power to defeat the undead and the monsters which plagued the land. Their renewed faith in the Gods meant that their power was tremendous, once again the blue cross shone in the night sky and the dead were once more put to rest. Thus finally ending the Old Age once and for all, and heralding in a new era of prosperity. The heroes formed The Order of the Blue Cross, dedicated to the Goddess of Light and past her teachings and power through the generations.

As time went on, Kings and Emperors the world over would call on the Blue Cross anytime otherworldly creatures plagued the land, and the Knights of the Order would lead crusades, vanquishing any evil foes that they encountered. The Knights were such an effective tool at vanquishing evil, in fact, that as time went on the world needed them less and less.

Now, in modern times, the Knights are few in numbers. But with the hordes of the undead on the horizon, the land needs them now more than ever.

In Lostaria, the Order can be found at their keep, on the top of Kreighardt Peak, where the Order first defeated the Sorrow Wraiths and their army of ghouls in a bloody battle that lasted nearly a hundred days, where the tide was turned against the undead in Lostaria. Despite the other holdings in the country falling into ruin over the years, the keep at Kreighardt has always remained in decent shape. Currently, it is governed by High Grace Anatol Herdrich, who waits in earnest for the arrival of evil forces once more.

### NPC's at Kreighardt Peak

#### I. High Grace Anatol Herdrich

High Grace is the title given to any member of the Order of the Blue Cross who has proven themselves worthy of commanding one of the Order's keeps, and has shown dedication to the Order either through their actions against evil or through years of their lives. Herdrich was bought into the order as a boy, and fought during the last crusade, in which the Order and the Imperial Armies defeated the Witches of Dhalamul and their army of wild beasts. Following their victory, Herdrich was promoted, and sent to watch over Kreighardt Peak under the previous High Grace, Hein Baumler. When Baumler died, Herdrich was chosen to be the new High Grace of Kreghardt Peak.

Herdrich is just, and believes completely in the Order's code of obeying the Gods and banishing the wicked, and has a distrust of unblest magic users. Those who visit his keep have been welcomed with open arms, provided they too have accepted the Gods as he has. Despite his age, it has been said that Herdrich can still handle a battle axe as well as any young warrior, and has bested even the strongest that have been sent to the keep.

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### 2. Sister Erika

Erika is an adept in the order, having only been a member for a short time. Before that, she lived in a town just passed Vonden's Pass on the southern side of the Iron Frost Mountains, before journeying north and finding salvation with the Order. Her few years at Kreighardt Peak have been spent learning the Order's scriptures and training with a longsword. Despite hardly leaving the keep during her time in Yostaria, Erika yearns for the field of battle against evil.

Erika is one of the potential party companions, and by being a member of the Order, she has received the Blue Cross Blessing, which means she gains +1 to all stats when battling against any undead enemies. This goes up by 1 every time she gains a level, to a maximum of +5. Erika, being a melee fighter, has the unique ability "Blessed Blade", which grants her bonus damage against unarmoured enemies.

### 3. Brother Vincent

Vincent is a native Yostarian, having been born in an orphanage in Antolnheim. As a boy, he was offered the chance to escape the orphanage and join the order, where he would learn to fight monsters and become a hero, every young boy's dream. He left the dirty streets of Antolnheim, and never looked back. However, despite his hopes and dreams of being a grand hero, he has often found himself stuck in the Keep's library, studying the battles of heroes past. Despite not often following the teachings of the Order word for word, his skills as an archer make him a valuable asset in the Order's war against evil.

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