

Sisters of the Emperor

By Andy Hoare

The Battle Sisters of the Orders Militant are the mainstay of the Adeptus Ministorium's armies. Utterly dedicated to the protection of the Imperium, Battle Sisters are trained and equipped to the highest standards. Inquisitors, especially those of the Puritan faction, are often keen to include Battle Sisters

in their retinues for this very reason.

Sisters Repentia are the outcasts of the Adepta Sororitas. Guilty of transgressing the rigid codes of their orders many take to a solitary existence, determined to earn their absolution alone before returning to their

convent filled with the Emperor's grace once more. These individuals represent an invaluable ally to an Inquisitor, as their furious desire to repent takes precedence over all other considerations – a state of mind more than one Inquisitor has taken full advantage of.

ADEPTA SORORITAS CHARACTERS

Equipment: The equipment available to an Adepta Sororitas character will vary depending on her mission and rank. A Sister Repentia is likely to be armed with a variety of wargear, acquired during her quest for absolution, but is unlikely to carry any Rare or Alien equipment. Sisters Repentia will never wear power armour.

Adepta Sororitas from the Orders Militant will be equipped with power armour, and are likely to carry bolters, bolt pistols, chainswords, power swords, etc, but will not carry any alien equipment.

No Adepta Sororitas character will ever have psychic powers of any sort.

Special Abilities:

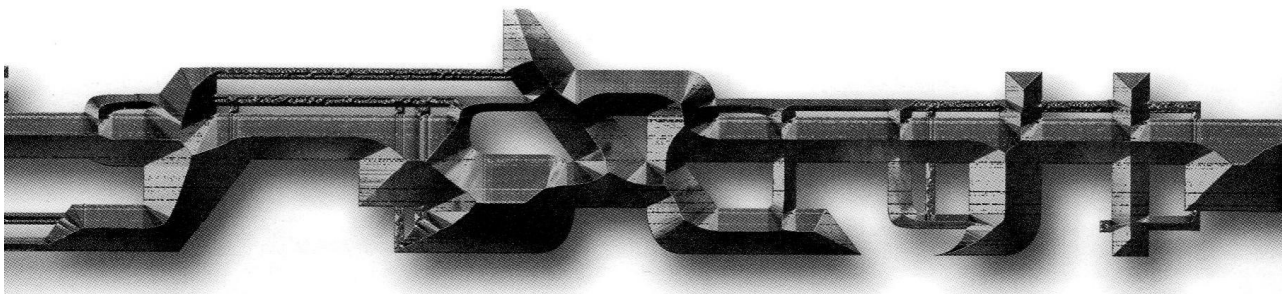
Acts of Faith: Adepta Sororitas are amongst the most pious adherents to the Imperial Creed in the Imperium, and are capable of calling upon the grace of the Emperor in times of direst need, sometimes with miraculous results! Before the game begins, roll a D6; the character has this many Faith points, which may be spent during the game to attempt an Act of Faith. The test costs an action to attempt, and the character must make an unmodified Willpower test. If this is successful, the character can choose to use any one of the following exotic abilities once that turn: Fearsome; Frenzy; Regeneration; Word of the Emperor. Acts of Faith are not counted as psychic powers, and so may not be nullified.

Sisters Repentia: A Sister Repentia may not use Acts of Faith until the GM has determined that she has earned redemption (see Sister Anastasia's profile).

All Sisters Repentia have the 'Only in Death Does Duty End' special rule, as described in Sister Anastasia's profile. Should the GM decide that the Repentia has earned her redemption, this rule will cease to apply, to be replaced with Acts of Faith as described above.

	WS	BS	S	T	I	Wp	Sg	Nv	Ld
Battle Sister	60	65	55	55	55	60	65	75	75
Repentia	70	65	55	60	55	70	65	80	60
Random	50+2D10	55+2D10	45+2D6	50+2D10	45+2D10	50+3D10	55+2D6	70+2D10	65+2D10





Sister Anastasia, of the Order of the Ermina Mantle

Raised at the Schola Progenium facility at Antigone's Harbour, Rosetta Anastasia was singled out by the Order Famulus as a potential recruit for the Adepta Sororitas at the age of twelve years. The agents of the Sisterhood were impressed by her pious spirit, which, matched with her latent fighting skills, made her ideal material for the battle sisters of the Orders Militant.

During her period as a Novice, Anastasia was indoctrinated into the ancient beliefs and traditions of the Sisterhood. She learned that the Sororitas had been founded during a distant and tumultuous period in the Imperium's long history, which was brought to an end by the actions of Saint Dominica. She learned of the Greater Orders and their Founding Saints, each of whom was a loyal follower of Dominica, who had then gone on to found the greatest of the Orders Militant, the Order of the Ebon Chalice. She learned of the Lesser Orders Militant, each of which was a daughter-house of one of the Greater Orders. She learned that central to the Sisterhood's doctrine is the knowledge that Mankind stands at a critical juncture in history, and that only through the salvation offered by the Emperor can Humanity prevail against the horrors of

the galaxy, and Man's own self-destructive nature. Only through total commitment to the Emperor, can the Adepta Sororitas hold the forces of disorder at bay, and this can only be achieved by submitting oneself wholly; mind, body and soul to the tenets of the Imperial Creed.

At the age of seventeen, Anastasia stood with five hundred of her fellow Novices and took the Oaths of Adherence in the Ecclesiarchal Palace on Terra. The Ecclesiarch himself blessed the assembled Novices in a ceremony that lasted throughout the night, and culminated at dawn with a superior from each of the Orders Militant stepping forward to lead each of the girls off to don the armour of their new Order for the very first time. It was a superior of the Order of the Ermine Mantle that stood before her, and Sister Anastasia left at her side, taking leave of Terra for Subiaco Diablo, the Hive world near the Cadian Gate called home by her new order.

The Convent of the Order of the Ermine Mantle is set at the apex of the tallest spire of Hive Siana, the capital of Subiaco Diablo. Being so close to the Eye of Terror, the Hive world had more than its share of cultists and recidivists spreading the seeds of heresy and corruption within its teeming

populace. The Sisters of the Ermine Mantle were engaged in a never-ending struggle against these elements, and so Sister Anastasia saw action within weeks of arriving at her new convent. For the next four years, Anastasia fought at the forefront of the war against Chaos, but it was obvious to all that the forces of the Ruinous Powers were gaining in numbers and fanaticism with each passing month. This state of affairs greatly troubled the young Sister, and she undertook increasingly long prayer-vigils upon the cold stone floor of the convent's inner sanctum, seeking the Emperor's guidance and strength to act against those who sought to drag Humanity down into the pits of ruin of their own making.

In the closing months of the 41st Millennium, matters came to a head. Abaddon the Despoiler, the Arch Heretic united the servants of Chaos and unleashed his Thirteenth Black Crusade. The Hordes of Chaos erupted from the Eye of Terror, smashing into the defences of the Cadian Gate. Upon a hundred worlds, the unseen agents of the Ruinous Powers revealed themselves, sowing discord and confusion amongst the beleaguered defenders at a time when only total unity would see Mankind prevail. The first sign of the invasion came when a plague, the



likes of which had never been seen before, swept the sectors surrounding the Gate. The over-populated hives of Subiaco Diablo were soon reduced to charnel houses of disease and corruption, doomsday cults roaming the streets proclaiming the end times for those who did not put their faith wholly in the blessed God-Emperor of Mankind. The cults preached that only those pure in every respect could hope to resist the Plague of Unbelief, as it became known, and set about the purging by flame and bullet of any they believed impure.

Soon a fate far worse than death at the hands of the plague visited itself upon the unfortunates of Subiaco Diablo. Those who had succumbed to the contagion rose once again, in the form of hideously decayed

zombies, their recently dead flesh sloughing from their shuffling forms as they fell upon the survivors.

Throughout the plague, the Sisters of the Ermine Mantle remained unaffected, not one of the Sisters being afflicted by it. None that is, except for Sister Anastasia.

As the scrofulous hordes of decaying plague zombies converged upon the convent, a shining beacon of purity amidst the planet wide sea of filth, Sister Anastasia lay in her cell in the grip of a pain-wracked fever. In moments of relative lucidity, she regarded her face in the reflection of her polished armour, and saw upon it the mark of corruption. And so, while her Sisters battled the uncountable hordes at the walls of the convent, Sister Anastasia scourged herself in an effort to draw out the poison she felt deep within. Never in her life had she had any cause to doubt that the Emperor was watching over her, but now she felt further from his grace than if she had crossed the vast gulf between galaxies.

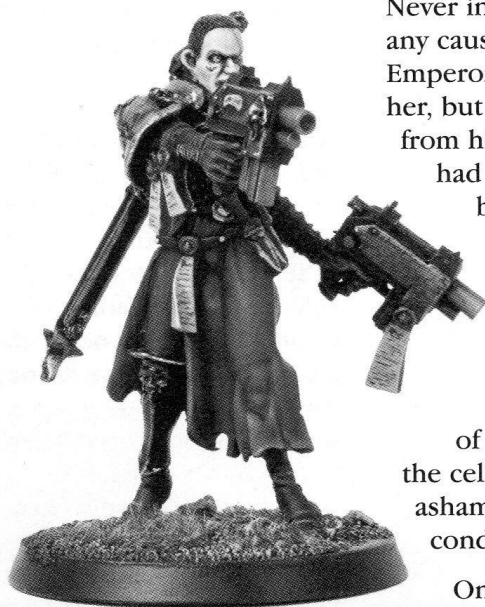
Anastasia endured her self-inflicted penitence and the ravaging fever for five days and nights, refusing to allow any of her sisters to enter the cell to aid her; so ashamed was she of her condition.

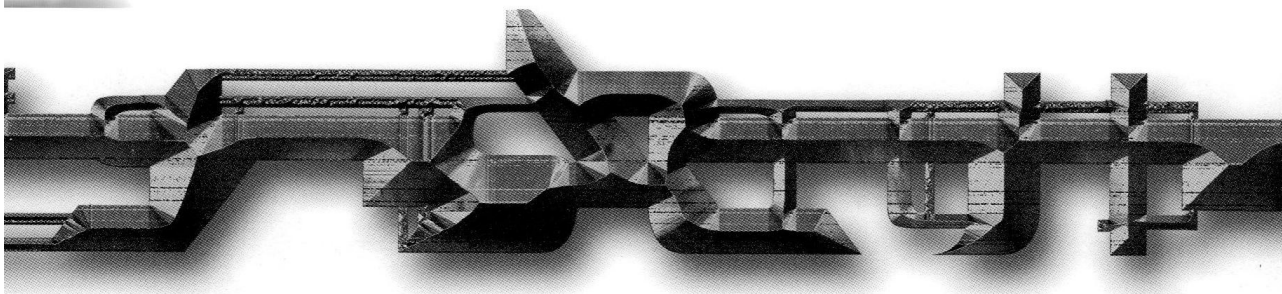
On the fifth night, at the height of her fever, convulsing in spasms of

agony, Sister Anastasia beheld a vision. She saw the Eye of Terror as a vast abscess upon the face of heaven. The Eye opened, and the sore spilled its filth across the Imperium, a tidal wave of corruption sweeping the Emperor's servants aside as they vainly attempted to hold it back. The wave engulfed Cadia, then, world by world, every bastion of the Emperor's armies all the way to Terra. As the mighty wave broke upon the homeworld of Mankind, Anastasia awoke with a cry: her fever had lifted and she felt suddenly cold as the sweat coating her skin cooled in the chill night air.

Donning her armour, Sister Anastasia resolved to stand beside her sisters in the battle against the plague zombies. But as she left her cell, she realised how long she had endured her fever, and that the convent had been decimated by five days of incessant conflict. As she walked the empty corridors, she found evidence of the terrible battle that had raged; bodies lay strewn all about, those of her sisters and the attackers. At length, she came to the central chapel, wherein she found the remnants of the Order of the Ermine Mantle. Fully two thirds of the Order had fallen defending the walls, and the surviving sisters had gathered to give thanks to the Emperor that the enemy had been repulsed.

The knowledge that she had failed to stand by her sisters





struck Anastasia like a hammer blow. She sank to her knees before them, tears filling her eyes as she strove to find the words to plead their forgiveness. But the words were as ashes in her mouth.

Staggering to her feet, Anastasia invoked the first verse of the Oath of the Penitent, the words leaving her mouth as a choked whisper. The others gathered around her, and she realised that no senior members of the order had survived the battle: only sisters her own age remained.

As she spoke the words of the ceremony, one of her sisters stepped forward. At the completion of each verse, an item of Anastasia's armour was removed. Seals bearing the words of the oath were attached about her person as another sister took a blade and roughly shaved her hair. Soon, she stood ragged in fragments of her former vestments, blood streaming from her scalp. Her sisters formally turned their backs as she spoke the final verse of the rite.

Leaving the convent, Anastasia walked out into the corpse-ridden ruins of Hive Siana, to seek her death, or her redemption.

At first, all was still on the streets of the hive, but as the sun began to sink, movements in the shadows caught Anastasia's eye. Soon, a low moaning filled the air, and ragged forms shambled from the ruins. The zombies

were slow, and Anastasia easily outran them, but found that no matter how far she fled they continued to pursue her. Breathless and desperate, she came at length to the shattered ruins of an Ecclesiarchy shrine, the blasted body of its attendant priest draped over the altar where he had died defending it.

Determined to make her stand at the shrine, Anastasia cast around for a weapon. Seeing that the priest still held a sword in his dead grip, she reached for it as the first of the zombies appeared at the broken gates of the shrine. As her hand touched the hilt, Anastasia was wracked by a terrible seizure, her back arching as she let out a dreadful scream. The ruins around her melted away, and she stood upon a vast plain of shattered bones. Before her stood a man in blood red armour, corruption radiating from him in palpable waves. In his hand he bore a weapon that squirmed and writhed with a thirst for the souls of the innocent. The man seemed unaware of Anastasia's presence, and she realised she was experiencing another vision, though unlike the one in her cell, this seemed to be pointing her towards a specific goal. She knew that the vision was telling her that this man was a source of great evil, and must be confronted if that evil was to be thwarted and Anastasia's redemption secured.

Anastasia snapped out of her vision to be confronted with a plague zombie reaching its filthy hands towards her. Overcome by a holy rage, she lashed out with the sword, cleaving the creature in two with one swing. Soon more of the foul creatures crowded into the confines of the shrine, but Anastasia was an avenging angel, her blade shining as she cut each plague zombie down.

And so, Sister Anastasia began her hunt for the man revealed to her in her vision. Over the course of her quest, other revelations came to her, each showing her the face of an individual whose existence could not be allowed to continue. Anastasia knew that in confronting each of these scions of evil and corruption she was doing the Emperor's work, and with every battle, taking another step on the road to her own absolution.

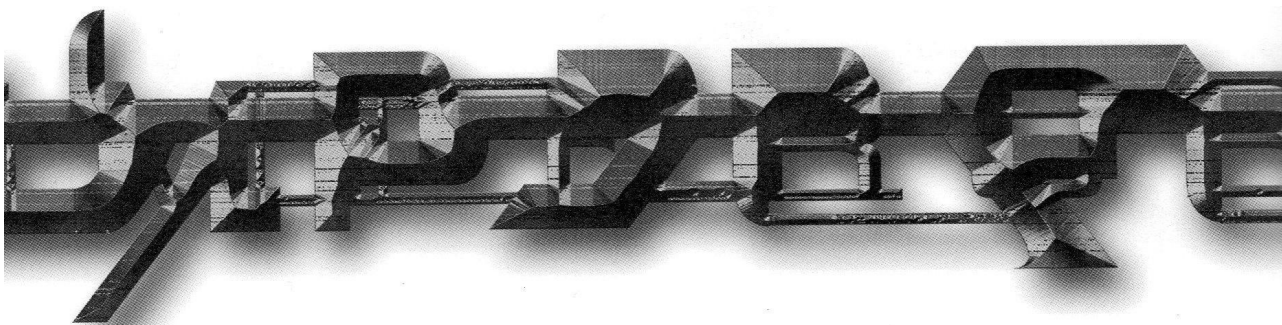
Before the Emperor I have sinned
Beyond forgiveness
Beyond forbearance
Beyond mercy

*We turn our backs upon you
We cast off your armour and
your arms*

I leave this company of
my own free will
And by my will shall I return
I shall seek the
Emperor's forgiveness
In the darkest places of the night

*When forgiveness is yours, we
shall welcome you back
Until such time you are
nameless to us*

From the first invocation of the Catechism of the Penitent, read when a Sister becomes a Repentia and is exiled from her order.



SISTER ANASTASIA

Anastasia is Ambidextrous.

Equipment: Two bolt pistols; four bolt pistol reloads; two knives; the Blade of Saint Joachim (see below); penitent seals (see below); carapace armour on chest, abdomen, groin and legs; reflective carapace armour on right arm.

Special Abilities: Force of Will, Furious Assault, Gunfighter, Nerves of Steel, True Grit.

	WS	BS	S	T	I	Wp	Sg	Nv	Ld
Anastasia	74	69	52	54	62	70	61	85	60

Only in death does duty end: Anastasia has embarked upon a quest, a series of objectives revealed to her by her visions, the completion of which will earn her own redemption. Before the game, the GM nominates an objective, be it the capture of an artefact, the rescue of a prisoner or the death of a specific enemy, character. Anastasia must at all times attempt to complete her quest, and the GM should apply suitable penalties if not convinced the player is trying hard enough (halving all her stats for a turn as she is overcome with guilt should do it...). If attempting to kill a specific enemy, she will be subject to the rules for Frenzy in relation to this character only, while he is still alive. A new objective is chosen for the next game if the last one is achieved. This effect will continue throughout the course of the campaign, making it a great way for the GM to steer the narrative in the right direction!

The Blade of Saint Joachim: This is the blade Anastasia recovered from the ruined shrine in Hive Siana, and it has saved her life on many occasions to date. It is a power sword, and in addition, when fighting against any opponent deemed by the GM to be affiliated to the forces of Chaos, has a parry 'penalty' of +15% rather than -15%.

Penitent Seals: These velum strips contain the complete transcription of the Oath of the Penitent. If at any point in the game Anastasia kills the target of her vision quest, they count as Hexagrammic Wards for the remainder of the game.

