

Entry Name: Order of the Crystal Rose





The Order of the Crystal Rose was founded in late M38 on the planet Mysidia IV, a world whose importance was, at the time, relatively minor. The primary motivation of the Sororitas to settle an Order there was to protect and maintain a shrine dedicated to a minor saint. Its name is derived from an odd plant native to the world; a flower whose petals are a form of living crystal due mainly to the unusually high mineral content of the planet's soil. Most of the native flora exhibit similar qualities, which also brought a small Magos Biologicus shrine to the world about three decades after the founding of the Order. The Mechanicus settlement was founded at the southernmost tip of the planet's main continent; placing it next to both life-rich seas and verdant jungles for variety of samples and not coincidentally giving it a healthy amount of buffer-zone from the Sororitas.

Two and a half centuries after the Order was founded, a series of warp storms wracked the region, and many of its warp currents shifted. Once the storms passed, the Mysidia system found itself athwart a major trade route. The small settlements that had grown up around the Order became boom towns as trade began to flow, and both the Order and their Mechanicus neighbors grew apace. The Order outgrew the Mechanicus and by the end of its third century of existence had become one of the larger armed forces in the region; helping to spearhead a number of small crusades as well as fending off a minor WAAAGH.

They still stand sentinel today, protecting Mysidia and its surrounds. They spend some of their time training with the local PDF, but mostly see to the maintenance and protection of the shrine; as well as sending forces to deal with the myriad bandits, pirates, Eldar Corsairs, and pockets of Orks across the region. Like most Orders of the Sororitas, they have a long history of working with Ordo Hereticus agents; unlike most they also lend aid to the Ordo Xenos with fair frequency as well. It was as a result of one campaign aiding the Ordo Xenos in rooting out Eldar influence on a nearby world that they gained what is likely the Order's most useful bits of kit: a squadron of eight Avenger Strike Fighters. The Inquisition, finding the local Naval Task Force's support to be lacking, exercised their authority to seize the Avengers; and handed them to the Sisters as "the most coherent armed force backing us up" in the operation. At the end of the campaign, an exercise in selective deafness, creative legerdemain, and fast talking resulted in the Order of the Crystal Rose keeping the fighters.

This led to some difficulties, and friction, between the Order of the Crystal Rose and their Mechanicus neighbors.

Like most Sororitas Orders, the Crystal Rose were unwilling to allow the Mechanicus to consecrate a maintenance hangar within the Order's

headquarters facilities to the Omnisiah. Therefore, the Mechanicus would not do maintenance of the Order's equipment on-site. Some Orders worked around this by having a maintenance hangar just outside their actual holdings, but still close enough for convenience, that the Mechanicus could dedicate; or by simply shipping equipment requiring maintenance to the AdMech and picking it up again after.

The Order of the Crystal Rose did neither. Instead, they took care of equipment maintenance in-house. Versions of the various Mechanicus rights and prayers are used - generally tweaked so that the Sisters are calling upon the Emperor to intercede with the Omnisiah on their behalf, rather than praying to the Machine God directly. For the most part, it worked (though occasionally one of their more elaborate pieces of equipment, like their Exorcists, would stubbornly refuse to respond to such prayers and would quietly be shipped down to the AdMech enclave for repairs). But the Avengers, being aircraft, were rather more elaborate pieces of kit than most of that which the Order used.

Upon learning that the Order had acquired them, the local head Magos made an offer to house them on AdMech property, for ease of maintenance. When that was rejected (as he had expected) the Magos made an offer of a 'compromise' - the Crystal Rose could build an airstrip and maintenance facilities outside their normal property and build a small, tasteful temple to the Omnisiah there; all at their own expense. This, too, was rejected - the Order did indeed build a fighter base, but its hangar was dedicated to the Emperor. Armed with gumption, stubbornness, and copies of the Navy's rituals acquired for them by contacts in the Ordo Hereticus, they set about caring for their newest acquisitions, and did so with fair success.

When the AdMech demanded to know how they were managing it, one of the Order's Sisters Dialogus took their modified navy-sourced rituals and translated them 'back to their native Binary;' which impressed and amused the High Magos; Cid; who decided that the situation was more or less worth keeping as it stood.

While the two groups are not precisely friendly one with the other, neither are they at risk of coming to blows - not outside of 'training exercises' between the two orders and the local PDF, at any rate.