



The Swiss Guard

On January 22, 1506, a company of one hundred and fifty Swiss soldiers entered the Vatican, to be blessed by Pope Julius II. Only twenty-one years later, on May 6, 1527, most of the Guard was massacred by Spanish mercenaries in the Sack of Rome, though with their deaths they ensured the safety of Pope Clement VII as he escaped the carnage.

No sacrifice as great has been asked of the Swiss Guard since then, but your commitment is no less. Each of you has taken the oath of loyalty — on May 6, to honor that long-ago sacrifice:

“I swear I will faithfully, loyally and honourably serve the Supreme Pontiff Adam Paul and his legitimate successors, and also dedicate myself to them with all my strength, sacrificing if necessary also my life to defend them. I assume this same commitment with regard to the Sacred College of Cardinals whenever the See is vacant. Furthermore I promise to the Commanding Captain and my other superiors, respect, fidelity and obedience. This I swear! May God and our Holy Patrons assist me!”

Of course, you are called upon today to maintain the peace and order of the Holy See far more than you are called upon to hold off an armed invasion. As such, you are more of a police force than an army — but you are one of the most loyal and well-trained police forces in the world.

As such, you have resisted all efforts so far to bring your organization under the sway of the International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol. The poor-man’s spy team, Interpol has been leaning on the Vatican to allow them “full access,” which means carte blanche to run around the city pretending they’re in charge. You have sworn oaths of loyalty to reach the positions you have — it would be unthinkable to give those same priveleges to others who have no loyalty beyond the coin they are paid.

Since there is no formal arrangement with Interpol at present, there should be no agents in the city. Of course, what there *should* be and what there *are* are two entirely different things. So, should any such agents come to your attention, you should make sure that their covers are blown as widely as possible — in the newspaper would be best. And whatever it is that they’re trying to do — whatever criminals they’re trying to catch, terrorists they’re trying to thwart — you should find out, and accomplish it yourselves, instead.

You will *not*, of course, break the law yourselves in dealing with any Interpol agents you find. They are inconveniences, not enemies.

The influx of people to the Holy See, for the different reconciliation meetings and the funeral of Pope Adam Paul — and the limited budget — means that your resources will be stretched much thinner than usual. However, your patrols are the first line of defense against the art thieves that constantly attempt to steal the Vatican’s treasures. Each of you has a patrol route which covers a different set of buildings. Every day, you should walk through each of your assigned buildings at least once, and politely greet everyone (everyone in game, that is) that you see. “Good evening, sir” and “How are you doing, ma’am” is sufficient, but greet them by name if you know who they are. After you have done your patrol round, check it off on the sheet in the Guard Office (13-5101).

Keep the peace. Protect the Cardinals. Hold the line against art thieves, against Interpol, and against anyone else who threatens the security of your city.

Members:

- Captain Armin Montandon (James Wnorowski): Patrol route includes 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 10, and 33
- Lt. Augustina Dupin (Stephanie Paige): Patrol route includes 2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 26, 56, and 66
- Lt. Danielle Crispin (Bertha Tang): Patrol route includes 36, 34, 38, 39, 37, 35, 24, and 12