

The Temple of Isis
Isis Invicta Military Mission Guide for Clergy and Officers
Updated January 2000

Introduction

Webster's dictionary (1984) defines "clergy" as "The body of persons ordained for religious service." "Minister" and "To Minister" both have in their definitions "to attend", "to work", "to care for" and "to serve". "To Serve" is defined as "to work as a servant".

When an ordination candidate walks forward and accepts the special gift of ordination, they become ministers of the Pagan faith. It is their duty to serve both the deity they are devoted to and the persons they will be ministering to. It must be remembered that anyone can devote themselves to the service of any deity or set of deities without the gift of ordination, but it takes a special devotion to serve the human race and minister in the physical realm.

As a priest or priestess of Isis, there are a multitude of ways to serve the Pagan and non-Pagan community. Isis Herself filled many roles in the physical realm: sister, wife, queen, lover, councilor, teacher, mother, magician, and nursemaid, friend, mourner and even "hairstylist". The list of roles she has played is endless, but all have brought joy, comfort and wisdom to mankind. These three qualities should always be in the mind of any clergy member.

Another goal of clergy is to integrate the spiritual laws into everyday life. As Isians, the Forty-two Laws of Maat are of particular importance. Amazingly, fulfilling the first goal achieves the second goal, and fulfilling the second goal achieves the first. These two goals walk hand in hand.

The Military Mission

One special way that an Isian clergy member can serve is to work with military members. Isis has had a very interesting history with military matters over the ages; from teaching Her own son how to wage battle, to Her special relationship with Roman Legions. Today Her mission is as important as ever. Today She is not only a military advisor, but also a beacon of strength and mercy to soldiers everywhere. She is right at home with today's military.

Because the military has a system of Equal Opportunity that is unparalleled in the civilian sector, the Pagan faith is growing rapidly and becoming more public. As of February 1999, there are religious services being performed at two military bases and over five study groups worldwide. These meetings are on government property and therefore protected by military law. The local chaplains, by regulation, favorably support the activities and assist with day to day activities. Once established, the meetings flourish in a peaceful environment free from religious discrimination or harassment.

Guidelines for working with the Military

Quick Outline

- #1 Know all of the regulations that apply to the branch of service you will be working with.
- #2 Keep a good relationship with the chaplain (your military “Chain of Command”)
- #3 Provide services that appeal to all military members who attend
- #4 Avoid self-promotion, promote Community
- #5 Teach a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge
- #6 Keep a good relationship with Temple of Isis and it’s priesthood (your clerical “Chain of Command”)

#1 Know the regulations! This is your first and most important guide to running the business end of paperwork, reports and accounting. By knowing the regulations, you will be saving yourself time and energy as well as saving the time and energy of your chaplain. You will also be able to assist military members by familiarizing yourself with Equal Opportunity regulations too.

Soldiers often shake their heads at “civilians” because they just don’t understand the military world. Understanding the rules and regulations of military life will greatly increase your ability to make friends in the military community.

#2 The chaplain is your commander so-to-speak. He will advise you concerning local issues such as obtaining meeting space, clean up and advertising. He writes all of the reports concerning performance standards and attendance numbers. He approves your initial requests and sends them up the chain of command to be approved. Once a meeting place is approved, he will continue to be the first person to approve or disapprove any and all requests you make, so always work positively with him.

#3 The regulations are very clear concerning religious services. They are only to be held once a week and for only two hours (to include set-up and takedown). You will not be replacing the chaplain in any of his regular duties and you are only responsible for the two hour time period. The main goal for the two-hour weekly service is to provide an atmosphere of joy and comfort to those who attend.

SUBSECTION: Understanding Soldier Psychology

To make the most of the two-hour block, you need to understand the soldier’s lifestyle. Keep in mind that soldiers are ALWAYS FOLLOWERS at their workplace. They must obey their “chain of command” or suffer certain punishment (loss of pay, extra duties, or jail time). They are rarely appreciated for who they are as individuals and their religious life may or may not be considered at all.

Soldiers do not need or want the “leader-follower” atmosphere. They get enough of that at work on duty. Soldiers want a place where they can be at ease with others “in the same boat”. Most of all they want joy and comfort, two things they do not get at the workplace.

DFGLs (designated faith group leaders) should maintain the position of “coordinator” and “advisor” over the title of “leader”. The path proscribed by a “leader” may not be the one a soldier wants to follow or be lead down. Soldiers should be encouraged to find their own spiritual answers because at anytime, they may be called away to a situation where they will not have the luxury of a Pagan priest or priestess to tend to their needs. They must be prepared for times when they will be unable to find others who share their views of religion. Spiritual self-sufficiency is a must.

SUBSECTION: Service Suggestions

By promoting community, you are promoting lasting friendships and spiritual family. Soldiers should be encouraged to participate as much as they are willing to do. This allows them to gain a sense of belonging and personal achievement. Services should use volunteers as much as possible to bring out “group effort”.

An example of service planning using volunteers:

- *The first 30 minutes should be a time of greetings and reflection/meditation.

- *Members who attend often can set-up during this 30-minute period

- * Rituals should be simple to accommodate everyone’s level of spirituality.

Simple titles such as “Lord”, “Lady”, “Queen of Heaven”, “Universal Mother” etc. should be used to accommodate multiple traditions.

- * Give volunteers duties during services such as clearing the sacred area, calling the guardians/quarters, calling the Goddess, calling the God etc. Give out as many parts as possible. This gives experience and personal achievement necessary for spiritual growth. It also keeps you, the DFGL, from becoming over-worked.

- * Allow steady members to write parts of or whole services with your supervision or advice.

- * Allow a time when attendees can request assistance/prayer/energy work for their special needs

- * Allow volunteers to read from simple pre-made scripts or use some of their own words

- * Encourage those too shy to read to participate in a way they may enjoy by baking bread, lighting candles, decorating etc. Find out what they are good at and what they would enjoy doing.

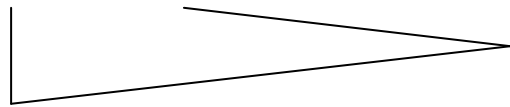
#4 Avoid self promotion, promote Community! NEVER NEVER NEVER should a service or activity appear as the “so-and-so show”. That is the quickest way to loose attendees and gain some negative karma!

#5 Classes taught to military members should provide a very broad spectrum of knowledge and skills and promote spiritual self-sufficiency. Classes can be divided up into several types: traditions & religions (Buddhism, Grail Mysteries etc.) promoting a skill (Tarot, crystal use, etc.), teaching a craft (making candles etc.) history, mythology and archetypes/Gods and Goddesses. Vary the types of classes offered as much as you are able.

#6 The Isis Invicta Mission chain is as follows:

Rev. Lorean Vigne
High Priestess Temple of Isis (CA)

Rev. deTraci Regula
Heirophant, Patroness



Ision/Rev. Ian MacWatt
Co-coordinator Isis Invica

Emmachia/Rev. Rona J. Coomer-Russell
Co-coordinator Isis Invica

European Isis Invicta Mission

United States Isis Invicta Mission

Tax Exempt Status Information

The Temple of Isis (CA) tax ID number is only used for the obtaining/securing of a meeting place at military facilities in accordance with the governing regulations. Any other use is unauthorized. Chapters may not use the tax ID number for business and/or personal use. Any funds collected during military services will be dealt with in accordance with the governing military regulations (i.e. chaplain's funds and accounting).

Temple of Isis is not responsible for the fees or processing involved in obtaining a personal or organization tax ID number for their priests or priestesses. Temple of Isis is also not responsible for tax preparation. Clergy are not considered paid employees and fall in the category of self-employed ministers. (See IRS publication 517 and publication 533). Ordination into the Isis Invicta Mission can only come from approval by the "chain of command" (from Rona, to Ian etc.)

Temple of Isis Responsibility

Temple of Isis is not responsible for the actions or activities of their priests or officiants. Temple of Isis is not responsible for any activities held outside of the two-hour service. Participants should be informed that outside functions are "unofficial". (Outside activities include dinner-parties, field trips and publications such as the

“Nemetona”.) Classes offered to individuals are the responsibility of the priest or priestess and are also unofficial activities.

Isis Invicta Military Mission is responsible to help you as much as we possibly can with problem solving and spiritual encouragement. We will try to answer your questions, guide you if you ask for guidance and be your shoulder to complain to when things get rough. We are responsible for our own behavior as well, and we strive to follow the Forty-two laws. If we get out of line, just tell us, and we will try to make amends.

Letters of Good Standing

Clergy must maintain communication with their “Chain of Command” in order to remain “in good standing”. Clergy are expected to perform their tasks in harmony with the Forty-two laws of Maat. Should a member’s behavior and/or performance of duties become improper, offensive, aggressive or no longer in harmony with the Forty-two laws and/or common spiritual laws, a letter of poor standing may be issued. Should the behavior not improve, a second letter may be sent to the individual and any interested parties (such as a chaplain). The gift of ordination in the Temple of Isis may be revoked at any time as benefits the organization.

Reporting Procedure

Written reports should be sent quarterly detailing that season’s activities. Monthly or weekly updates for important news are encouraged and appreciated. Reports can be written in any style as long as they are accurate.

The Last Word

In all things, the Temple of Isis should always be beneficially considered and positive action taken.

This guide can be updated at anytime and helpful suggestions are encouraged. Copies of future updates will be sent out on an as-needed basis.

Addition to the Military Guide for Isis Invicta Military Mission
January 1st 2000

As of January 1st 2000, a new position has been created within the Isis Invicta Military Mission in hopes to further assist military members of the Pagan faith find community and fellowship in their specific locale.

This new position will be known as "Officians/Officantis" (Latin) or "Officiant/Officiator" (English). The word "officiant" is a noun describing a person who officiates at a religious service or ceremony. "Officiate" is a verb meaning "to perform the duties of a priest, minister or rabbi".*

This office is given by sanction, similar to a warrant, confirmation of approval or certificate of appointment. The sanction is time binding, in that it must be renewed every 12 months. A sanction can be lifted or removed at any time as deemed to the benefit of the Isis Invica Military Mission and/or the Temple of Isis, Geyserville California.

Officiants must obey all of the provisions, laws and guides set for ordained clergy in the Isis Military Mission. Officiants work as volunteers for the Isis Invica Military Mission and not as self-employed clergy ordained through the Temple of Isis. After 12 months of satisfactory performance and continued education, officiants can apply for ordination status.

Officiants are only sanctioned for appointed tasks such as opening DFGL led services in a specific area and their sanction certificate will reflect this. Tasks outside of the approved mission must be applied for and an additional sanction will be supplied (example, setting up a second DFGL service, hospital service, prison service etc.).

At any time the laws regarding Officiants in the Isis Invicta Military Mission can be added to or improved with approval from Temple of Isis CA.

*World Book Dictionary

To this I set my hand,

Rev. Rona J. Coomer-Russell
Co-coordinator