



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

from St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, through the Episcopal Church of Scotland and Bishop Samuel Seabury, to the present time

in the line of

THE MOST REVEREND

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR., J.D., D.D.

Bishop to the Nations, under Apostolic Commission



1. SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST^{CO}

called by Christ about A.D. 30

named in Scripture: called with his brother James, the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21–22); named among the Twelve (Matthew 10:2)

This line of apostolic succession extends from the Apostle John, about A.D. 30, to the present day, a span of 1,996 years as of 2026.

Consecrations to the office of bishop were made, one to the next, through the churches named below.

Some bishops in this line are also honored as saints. The marks beside their names concern holiness of life only. They do not bear on the validity of any consecration: every bishop listed holds his place in the succession equally, whether or not he is honored as a saint.

St. Saint: one whom a Church publicly honors as having lived a life of heroic holiness and as now being with God, and whose memory it keeps in its calendar. In the early Church saints were recognized by the acclaim of the faithful and their bishops; later, by formal canonization in the Roman Catholic Church and glorification in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Bl. Blessed: in the Roman Catholic Church, one who has been beatified, the formal step that precedes canonization as a saint.

C Honored as a saint or blessed by the Roman Catholic Church.

CO Honored as a saint by both the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Red Martyr: one who gave his life for the faith.

The Churches do not always agree on who is a saint. One may honor a person whom another does not, and the marks show which Church honors each.

SMYRNA

The Church of Smyrna in Asia, whose bishop St. Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostle John and was appointed by the apostles.

2. St. Polycarp^{CO} *Martyr* c. 100

LYON

The See of Lyon in Gaul, founded by St. Pothinus, whom St. Polycarp sent from Asia, and led after him by St. Irenaeus, also a disciple of St. Polycarp. Its bishop Aetherius was among those to whom Pope St. Gregory the Great commended St. Augustine on his mission to England.

3. St. Pothinus^{CO} *Martyr* 2nd c.
4. St. Irenaeus^{CO} *Martyr* 177
5. St. Zacharias^{CO} c. 202
6. Helios 3rd c.
7. St. Faustinus^{CO} 254
8. Verus 3rd c.
9. Julius 3rd c.
10. Ptolemaeus 3rd c.
11. Vocius 314
12. Maximus 4th c.
13. Tetradius 4th c.
14. Verissimus 343
15. St. Justus^{CO} 374
16. St. Albinus^{CO} c. 390
17. St. Martin^{CO} 4th c.
18. St. Antiochus^{CO} c. 400
19. St. Elpidius^{CO} c. 410
20. St. Sicarius^{CO} c. 422
21. St. Eucherius^{CO} c. 433

22. St. Patiens^{CO} c. 451
23. St. Lupicinus^{CO} 491
24. St. Rusticus^{CO} 494
25. St. Stephanus^{CO} 501
26. St. Viventius^{CO} 515
27. Eucherius II 6th c.
28. St. Lupus^{CO} 535
29. Leontius 542
30. St. Sacerdos^{CO} 549
31. St. Nicetius^{CO} 552
32. Priscus 573
33. Aetherius 586

CANTERBURY

The See of Canterbury, founded by St. Augustine, who was consecrated in Gaul and sent by Pope St. Gregory the Great to bring the Gospel to the English in 597.

34. St. Augustine of Canterbury^{CO} 597
35. St. Laurence^{CO} 604
36. St. Mellitus^{CO} 619
37. St. Justus^{CO} 624
38. St. Honorius^{CO} 627
39. St. Deusdedit^{CO} 655
40. St. Theodore of Tarsus^{CO} 668
41. St. Brihtwald^{CO} 693
42. St. Tatwine^{CO} 731
43. St. Nothelm^{CO} 735
44. Cuthbert 740
45. St. Bregowine^{CO} 759
46. Jaenberht 766

47. Æthelhard	793
48. Wulfred	805
49. Feologild	832
50. Ceolnoth	833
51. Æthelred	870
52. Plegmund	890
53. St. Athelm ^{CO}	914
54. Wulfhelm	923
55. St. Oda ^{CO}	942
56. St. Dunstan ^{CO}	960
57. Æthelgar	988
58. Sigeric	990
59. Ælfric	995
60. St. Ælfheah ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	1006
61. Lyfing	1013
62. Æthelnoth	1020
63. Eadsige	1038
64. Robert of Jumièges	1051
65. Stigand	1052
66. Lanfranc	1070
67. St. Anselm ^C	1093
68. Ralph d'Escures	1114
69. William de Corbeil	1123
70. Theobald of Bec	1139
71. St. Thomas Becket ^C <i>Martyr</i>	1162
72. Richard of Dover	1174
73. Baldwin of Forde	1185
74. Reginald Fitz Jocelin	1191
75. Hubert Walter	1193
76. Stephen Langton	1207
77. Richard le Grant	1229
78. St. Edmund Rich ^C	1234
79. Bl. Boniface of Savoy ^C	1245
80. Robert Kilwardby	1273

81. John Peckham	1279
82. Robert Winchelsey	1294
83. Walter Reynolds	1313
84. Simon Mepham	1328
85. John Stratford	1333
86. Thomas Bradwardine	1349
87. Simon Islip	1349
88. Simon Langham	1366
89. William Whittlesey	1368
90. Simon Sudbury	1375
91. William Courtenay	1381
92. Thomas Arundel	1396
93. Henry Chichele	1414
94. John Stafford	1443
95. John Kemp	1452
96. Thomas Bouchier	1454
97. John Morton	1486
98. Henry Deane	1501
99. William Warham	1503
100. Thomas Cranmer	1533

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

After the Reformation, the bishops of the Church of England, each consecrated by the bishop listed before him, to Gilbert Sheldon.

101. John Scory	1551
102. Matthew Parker	1559
103. Edmund Grindal	1559
104. John Whitgift	1577
105. Richard Bancroft	1597
106. George Abbot	1609
107. George Montaigne	1617
108. William Laud	1621
109. Brian Duppa	1638

110. Gilbert Sheldon 1660

SCOTLAND

The bishops of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, from James Sharp, consecrated at Westminster in 1661 by Gilbert Sheldon, then Bishop of London and later Archbishop of Canterbury, through the Non-Juring bishops, each consecrated by the bishop listed before him, to Robert Kilgour, Primus.

111. James Sharp 1661
112. Alexander Burnet 1663
113. Arthur Rose 1675
114. Alexander Rose 1687
115. Arthur Millar 1718
116. Thomas Rattray 1727
117. William Falconer 1741
118. Robert Kilgour 1768

AMERICA

From Samuel Seabury, consecrated at Aberdeen in 1784 by the Scottish bishops as the first bishop of the Church in the

United States. In 1792 Seabury joined the bishops consecrated in England in laying hands on Thomas John Claggett, uniting the Scottish and English successions in America; from Claggett the succession passes through the bishops who laid hands at each consecration listed here, to those who have carried it to the present day.

119. Samuel Seabury 1784
120. Thomas John Claggett 1792
121. Edward Bass 1797
122. Abraham Jarvis 1797
123. John Henry Hobart 1811
124. Henry Ustick Onderdonk 1827
125. Benjamin Treadwell Onderdonk 1830
126. Samuel Allen McCoskry 1836
127. William Edward McLaren 1875
128. William Montgomery Brown 1898
129. Wallace David de Ortega Maxey 1927
130. Nils Bertil Alexander Persson 1986
131. Samuel Guido, Jr. 2004

132.

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR.

2013

SHARED SUCCESSION WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The present Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, and Bishop Byers share the same line of apostolic succession from St. John down to Gilbert Sheldon (consecrated 1660; Archbishop of Canterbury 1663–1677). By his own hands Sheldon consecrated the bishops from whom both lines descend: in the line of Archbishop Mullally, Henry Compton, in 1674; in this line of Bishop Byers, James Sharp, in 1661.



HOLY ORDERS

Ordination

August 17, 2008, by the laying on of hands, at St. Paul's Lutheran Orthodox Chapel, Palmerton, Pennsylvania.

Consecration to the Holy Order of Bishop

April 20, 2013, by the laying on of hands during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, at St. Paul's Lutheran Orthodox Chapel, meeting that day at American Legion Post 16, Slatington, Pennsylvania.

Principal consecrator

The Most Reverend Samuel Guido, Jr.

Co-consecrators

Bishop Bradley A. Varvil

Bishop Michael Byus

Bishop James Thompson

The certificates of ordination and consecration, with photographs of the consecration, are presented on the [About the Bishop](#) page.

SERVICE

Consecrated to the Holy Order of Bishop on April 20, 2013, within the Lutheran Orthodox Church, Inc., in which he subsequently served as Archbishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Bishop Byers is no longer affiliated with that body.

Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*), conferred by the Lutheran Orthodox Church, Inc., April 20, 2013.



St. John the Evangelist, portrait page (folio 291v) of the Book of Kells, made about A.D. 800 by the monks of the Columban community of Iona and Kells; Trinity College, Dublin. Via [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain; trimmed and resized from the original.