



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

from St. Linus, Apostle of the Seventy, through the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht, 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



I. SAINT LINUS, APOSTLE OF THE SEVENTY^{CO}

sent by Christ among the Seventy about A.D. 30 (Luke 10:1)

named in Scripture: "Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia" (2 Timothy 4:21)

first bishop of Rome after St. Peter, about A.D. 67

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

The succession from St. Linus to Pope Paul III follows the list of the bishops of Rome kept by the Roman Catholic Church: the same list by which the Roman Catholic Church traces its own apostolic succession to St. Peter, whom St. Linus succeeded.

St. Linus is honored as an apostle of the Seventy by the Eastern Orthodox Church, which keeps his feast on November 5, with the Apostles Patrobas and Hermas, and numbers him among the Seventy Apostles honored together on January 4. The Roman Catholic Church keeps his feast on September 23 and names him first among the saints after the apostles in the Roman Canon of the Mass. St. Irenaeus of Lyon, about A.D. 180, recorded that the blessed apostles committed the office of bishop at Rome to Linus, and that St. Paul makes mention of this Linus in his Epistle to Timothy.

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.

ROME

The See of Rome, where the Apostles Peter and Paul gave their lives. The bishops of Rome from St. Anacletus, who succeeded St. Linus, to Pope Paul III, in whose reign Scipione Rebiba was raised to the episcopate in 1541.

2. St. Anacletus ^{CO}	c. 76
3. St. Clement I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	c. 88
4. St. Evaristus ^{CO}	c. 97
5. St. Alexander I ^{CO}	c. 105
6. St. Sixtus I ^{CO}	c. 115
7. St. Telesphorus ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	c. 125
8. St. Hyginus ^{CO}	c. 136
9. St. Pius I ^{CO}	c. 140
10. St. Anicetus ^{CO}	c. 155
11. St. Soter ^{CO}	c. 166
12. St. Eleutherius ^{CO}	c. 175
13. St. Victor I ^{CO}	189
14. St. Zephyrinus ^{CO}	199
15. St. Callixtus I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	217
16. St. Urban I ^{CO}	222
17. St. Pontian ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	230
18. St. Anterus ^{CO}	235

19. St. Fabian ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	236
20. St. Cornelius ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	251
21. St. Lucius I ^{CO}	253
22. St. Stephen I ^{CO}	254
23. St. Sixtus II ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	257
24. St. Dionysius ^{CO}	259
25. St. Felix I ^{CO}	269
26. St. Eutychian ^{CO}	275
27. St. Caius ^{CO}	283
28. St. Marcellinus ^{CO}	296
29. St. Marcellus I ^{CO}	308
30. St. Eusebius ^{CO}	309
31. St. Miltiades ^{CO}	311
32. St. Sylvester I ^{CO}	314
33. St. Mark ^{CO}	336
34. St. Julius I ^{CO}	337
35. Liberius	352
36. St. Damasus I ^{CO}	366
37. St. Siricius ^{CO}	384
38. St. Anastasius I ^{CO}	399
39. St. Innocent I ^{CO}	401

40. St. Zosimus ^{CO}	417
41. St. Boniface I ^{CO}	418
42. St. Celestine I ^{CO}	422
43. St. Sixtus III ^{CO}	432
44. St. Leo I ^{CO}	440
45. St. Hilarius ^{CO}	461
46. St. Simplicius ^{CO}	468
47. St. Felix III ^{CO}	483
48. St. Gelasius I ^{CO}	492
49. Anastasius II	496
50. St. Symmachus ^{CO}	498
51. St. Hormisdas ^{CO}	514
52. St. John I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	523
53. St. Felix IV ^{CO}	526
54. Boniface II	530
55. John II	533
56. St. Agapetus I ^{CO}	535
57. St. Silverius ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	536
58. Vigilius	537
59. Pelagius I	556
60. John III	561
61. Benedict I	575
62. Pelagius II	579
63. St. Gregory I ^{CO}	590
64. Sabinian	604
65. Boniface III	607
66. St. Boniface IV ^{CO}	608
67. St. Adeodatus I ^{CO}	615
68. Boniface V	619
69. Honorius I	625
70. Severinus	640
71. John IV	640
72. Theodore I	642
73. St. Martin I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	649

74. St. Eugene I ^{CO}	654
75. St. Vitalian ^{CO}	657
76. Adeodatus II	672
77. Donus	676
78. St. Agatho ^{CO}	678
79. St. Leo II ^{CO}	682
80. St. Benedict II ^{CO}	684
81. John V	685
82. Conon	686
83. St. Sergius I ^{CO}	687
84. John VI	701
85. John VII	705
86. Sisinnius	708
87. Constantine	708
88. St. Gregory II ^{CO}	715
89. St. Gregory III ^{CO}	731
90. St. Zachary ^{CO}	741
91. Stephen II	752
92. St. Paul I ^{CO}	757
93. Stephen III	768
94. Adrian I	772
95. St. Leo III ^{CO}	795
96. Stephen IV	816
97. St. Paschal I ^{CO}	817
98. Eugene II	824
99. Valentine	827
100. Gregory IV	827
101. Sergius II	844
102. St. Leo IV ^{CO}	847
103. Benedict III	855
104. St. Nicholas I ^{CO}	858
105. Adrian II	867
106. John VIII	872
107. Marinus I	882

108. St. Adrian III ^{CO}	884
109. Stephen V	885
110. Formosus	891
111. Boniface VI	896
112. Stephen VI	896
113. Romanus	897
114. Theodore II	897
115. John IX	898
116. Benedict IV	900
117. Leo V	903
118. Sergius III	904
119. Anastasius III	911
120. Lando	913
121. John X	914
122. Leo VI	928
123. Stephen VII	928
124. John XI	931
125. Leo VII	936
126. Stephen VIII	939
127. Marinus II	942
128. Agapetus II	946
129. John XII	955
130. Leo VIII	963
131. Benedict V	964
132. John XIII	965
133. Benedict VI	973
134. Benedict VII	974
135. John XIV	983
136. John XV	985
137. Gregory V	996
138. Sylvester II	999
139. John XVII	1003
140. John XVIII	1004
141. Sergius IV	1009

142. Benedict VIII	1012
143. John XIX	1024
144. Benedict IX	1032
145. Sylvester III	1045
146. Benedict IX	1045
147. Gregory VI	1045
148. Clement II	1046
149. Benedict IX	1047
150. Damasus II	1048
151. St. Leo IX ^C	1049
152. Victor II	1055
153. Stephen IX	1057
154. Nicholas II	1059
155. Alexander II	1061
156. St. Gregory VII ^C	1073
157. Bl. Victor III ^C	1086
158. Bl. Urban II ^C	1088
159. Paschal II	1099
160. Gelasius II	1118
161. Callixtus II	1119
162. Honorius II	1124
163. Innocent II	1130
164. Celestine II	1143
165. Lucius II	1144
166. Bl. Eugene III ^C	1145
167. Anastasius IV	1153
168. Adrian IV	1154
169. Alexander III	1159
170. Lucius III	1181
171. Urban III	1185
172. Gregory VIII	1187
173. Clement III	1187
174. Celestine III	1191
175. Innocent III	1198

176. Honorius III	1216
177. Gregory IX	1227
178. Celestine IV	1241
179. Innocent IV	1243
180. Alexander IV	1254
181. Urban IV	1261
182. Clement IV	1265
183. Bl. Gregory X ^C	1271
184. Bl. Innocent V ^C	1276
185. Adrian V	1276
186. John XXI	1276
187. Nicholas III	1277
188. Martin IV	1281
189. Honorius IV	1285
190. Nicholas IV	1288
191. St. Celestine V ^C	1294
192. Boniface VIII	1294
193. Bl. Benedict XI ^C	1303
194. Clement V	1305
195. John XXII	1316
196. Benedict XII	1334
197. Clement VI	1342
198. Innocent VI	1352
199. Bl. Urban V ^C	1362
200. Gregory XI	1370
201. Urban VI	1378
202. Boniface IX	1389
203. Innocent VII	1404
204. Gregory XII	1406
205. Martin V	1417
206. Eugene IV	1431
207. Nicholas V	1447
208. Callixtus III	1455
209. Pius II	1458

210. Paul II	1464
211. Sixtus IV	1471
212. Innocent VIII	1484
213. Alexander VI	1492
214. Pius III	1503
215. Julius II	1503
216. Leo X	1513
217. Adrian VI	1522
218. Clement VII	1523
219. Paul III	1534

THE REBIBA SUCCESSION

From Cardinal Scipione Rebiba to Cardinal Luigi Caetani, each bishop consecrated by the one listed before him.

220. Scipione Rebiba	1541
221. Giulio Antonio Santorio	1566
222. Girolamo Bernerio	1586
223. Galeazzo Sanvitale	1604
224. Ludovico Ludovisi	1621
225. Luigi Caetani	1622

ROME AND FRANCE

From Giovanni Battista Scanaroli, consecrated by Cardinal Caetani in 1630, through the archbishops and bishops of Reims, Meaux, and Condom, to Dominique-Marie Varlet, consecrated at Paris in 1719.

226. Giovanni Battista Scanaroli	1630
227. Antonio Barberini	1655
228. Charles-Maurice Le Tellier	1668
229. Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet	1670
230. Jacques de Goyon de Matignon	1693
231. Dominique-Marie Varlet	1719

UTRECHT

The Old Catholic archbishops and bishops of Utrecht, Haarlem, and Deventer, from Petrus Johannes Meindaerts,

consecrated by Varlet in 1739, to Gerardus Gul, Archbishop of Utrecht.

232. Petrus Johannes Meindaerts	1739
233. Johannes van Stiphout	1745
234. Gualtherus Michael van Nieuwenhuizen	1768
235. Adrianus Johannes Broekman	1778
236. Johannes Jacobus van Rhijn	1797
237. Gisbertus de Jong	1805
238. Willibrordus van Os	1814
239. Johannes Bon	1819
240. Johannes van Santen	1825
241. Hermanus Heykamp	1854

242. Casparus Johannes Rinkel	1873
243. Gerardus Gul	1892

ENGLAND AND AMERICA

From Arnold Harris Mathew, consecrated at Utrecht in 1908, each bishop consecrated by the one listed before him.

244. Arnold Harris Mathew	1908
245. Rudolph de Landas Berghes	1913
246. William Henry Francis Brothers	1916
247. William Montgomery Brown	1925
248. Wallace David de Ortega Maxey	1927
249. Nils Bertil Alexander Persson	1986
250. Samuel Guido, Jr.	2004

251.

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR.

2013

SHARED SUCCESSION WITH THE BISHOP OF ROME

The present Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV, and Bishop Byers share the same line of apostolic succession from St. Linus down to Cardinal Luigi Caetani (consecrated 1622). By his own hands Cardinal Caetani consecrated the bishops from whom both lines descend: in the line of Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Ulderico Carpegna; in this line of Bishop Byers, Giovanni Battista Scanaroli, both in 1630.



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

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.

Orthodox Chapel, meeting that day at American Legion
Post 16, Slatington, Pennsylvania.

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

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.*



Portrait of Pope St. Linus, print, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, via [Wikimedia Commons](#); released into the public domain by the museum;
cropped and resized from the original.