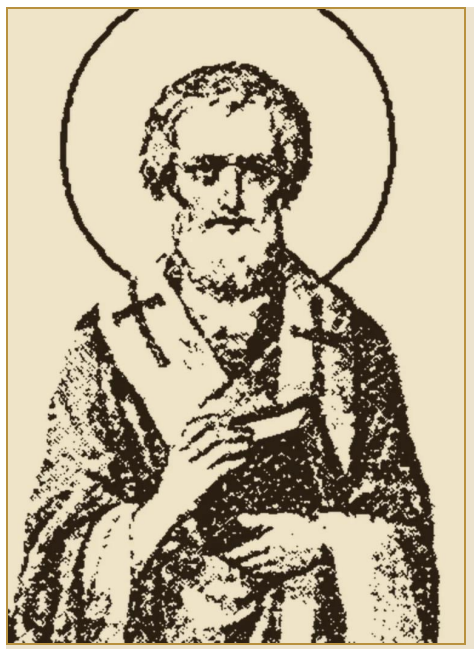




APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

from St. Linus, Apostle of the Seventy, 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	135. John XIV	983
102. St. Leo IV ^{CO}	847	136. John XV	985
103. Benedict III	855	137. Gregory V	996
104. St. Nicholas I ^{CO}	858	138. Sylvester II	999
105. Adrian II	867	139. John XVII	1003
106. John VIII	872	140. John XVIII	1004
107. Marinus I	882	141. Sergius IV	1009
108. St. Adrian III ^{CO}	884	142. Benedict VIII	1012
109. Stephen V	885	143. John XIX	1024
110. Formosus	891	144. Benedict IX	1032
111. Boniface VI	896	145. Sylvester III	1045
112. Stephen VI	896	146. Benedict IX	1045
113. Romanus	897	147. Gregory VI	1045
114. Theodore II	897	148. Clement II	1046
115. John IX	898	149. Benedict IX	1047
116. Benedict IV	900	150. Damasus II	1048
117. Leo V	903	151. St. Leo IX ^C	1049
118. Sergius III	904	152. Victor II	1055
119. Anastasius III	911	153. Stephen IX	1057
120. Lando	913	154. Nicholas II	1059
121. John X	914	155. Alexander II	1061
122. Leo VI	928	156. St. Gregory VII ^C	1073
123. Stephen VII	928	157. Bl. Victor III ^C	1086
124. John XI	931	158. Bl. Urban II ^C	1088
125. Leo VII	936	159. Paschal II	1099
126. Stephen VIII	939	160. Gelasius II	1118
127. Marinus II	942	161. Callixtus II	1119
128. Agapetus II	946	162. Honorius II	1124
129. John XII	955	163. Innocent II	1130
130. Leo VIII	963	164. Celestine II	1143
131. Benedict V	964	165. Lucius II	1144
132. John XIII	965	166. Bl. Eugene III ^C	1145
133. Benedict VI	973	167. Anastasius IV	1153
134. Benedict VII	974	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, each bishop consecrated by the one listed before him. Nearly all bishops of the Roman Catholic Church today descend from this succession, among them the present Bishop of Rome.

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
226. Ulderico Carpegna	1630
227. Paluzzo Paluzzi Altieri	1666
228. Pope Benedict XIII (Orsini)	1675
229. Pope Benedict XIV (Lambertini)	1724
230. Pope Clement XIII (Rezzonico)	1743
231. Bernardino Giraud	1767

232. Alessandro Mattei	1777
233. Pietro Francesco Galeffi	1819
234. Giacomo Filippo Frasoni	1822
235. Carlo Sacconi	1851
236. Edward Henry Howard	1872
237. Mariano Rampolla	1882
238. Joaquim Arcoverde	1890
239. Sebastião Leme	1911

THE AMERICAS

From Carlos Duarte Costa, consecrated Bishop of Botucatu in Brazil in 1924, to the bishops who have carried this succession to the present day.

240. Carlos Duarte Costa	1924
241. Emile Rodriguez y Fairfield	1954
242. Nils Bertil Alexander Persson	1986
243. Samuel Guido, Jr.	2004

244.

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 Pope Clement XIII (Carlo della Torre Rezzonico, pope 1758–1769). By his own hands Clement XIII consecrated the bishops from whom both lines descend: in the line of Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Marcantonio Colonna, in 1762; in the line of Bishop Byers, Cardinal Bernardino Giraud, in 1767.



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.

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.

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.*



St. Linus, from the image of the Holy Apostles Patrobas, Hermas, and Linus, in the Russian *Lives of the Saints* (Moscow, 1903–1911),
for the feast of November 5. Via [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain; cropped, toned, and resized from the original.