



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

from St. Peter at Antioch, through the Patriarchates of Antioch and Moscow, 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 PETER, APOSTLE AND MARTYR^{CO}

called by Christ about A.D. 30; first bishop of Antioch

named in Scripture: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18); at Antioch (Galatians 2:11)

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

The succession from St. Peter to Gregory IV, Patriarch of Antioch, follows the list of the patriarchs of Antioch kept by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch: the same list by which the Orthodox Church of Antioch traces its own apostolic succession to St. Peter, first bishop of Antioch.

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.
- O** Honored as a saint by the Eastern Orthodox 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.

ANTIOCH

The see of Antioch, where “the disciples were called Christians first” (Acts 11:26), founded by St. Peter before he went to Rome. The bishops and patriarchs of Antioch from St. Evodius, who succeeded St. Peter, to Cyril V, as the Church of Antioch keeps their list.

2. St. Evodius ^{CO}	53
3. St. Ignatius ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	68
4. Heron I	100
5. Cornelius	127
6. Heron II	151
7. St. Theophilus ^{CO}	169
8. Maximus I	188
9. St. Serapion ^{CO}	191
10. St. Asclepiades ^{CO}	212
11. Philetus	218
12. Zebinus	232
13. St. Babylas ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	240
14. Fabius	253
15. Demetrian	256
16. Amphilochius	263
17. Paul of Samosata	267
18. Domnus I	270
19. Timaeus	273
20. Cyril	277

21. Tyrannion	299
22. Vitalius	308
23. St. Philogonius ^{CO}	314
24. Paulinus	324
25. St. Eustathius ^{CO}	325
26. Eulalius	332
27. Euphronius	333
28. Flacillus	334
29. Stephen I	341
30. Leontius	345
31. Eudoxius	350
32. St. Meletius ^{CO}	354
33. Anianus	357
34. Euzoius	360
35. Dorotheus	370
36. Paulinus II	371
37. Vitalius II	376
38. St. Flavian I ^{CO}	384
39. Porphyrius	404
40. Alexander	408
41. Theodotus	418
42. John I	427
43. Domnus II	443
44. Maximus II	450
45. Basil	459

46. Acacius	459	80. Simeon	834
47. Martyrius	461	81. Elias	840
48. Peter the Fuller	465	82. Theodosius	852
49. Julian	466	83. Nicholas II	860
50. John II	475	84. Michael	879
51. Stephen II	490	85. Zacharias	890
52. Stephen III	493	86. George III	902
53. Calandion	495	87. Job II	917
54. John Codonatus	495	88. Eustratius	939
55. Palladius	497	89. Christopher	960
56. Flavian II	505	90. Theodore II	966
57. Severus	513	91. Agapius	977
58. Paul II	518	92. John V	995
59. Euphrasius	521	93. Nicholas III	1000
60. St. Ephraim ^O	526	94. Elias II	1003
61. Domnus III	546	95. George Lascaris	1010
62. St. Anastasius I the Sinaite ^{CO}	561	96. Macarius the Virtuous	1015
63. St. Gregory ^{CO}	571	97. Eleutherius	1023
64. St. Anastasius II ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	599	98. Peter III	1028
65. Gregory II	610	99. John VI	1051
66. Anastasius III	620	100. Aemilian	1062
67. Macedonius	628	101. Theodosius II	1075
68. George I	640	102. Nicephorus	1084
69. Macarius	656	103. John VII	1090
70. Theophanes	681	104. John IX	1155
71. Sebastian	687	105. Euthymius	1159
72. George II	690	106. Macarius II	1164
73. Alexander II	695	107. Athanasius	1166
74. Stephen IV	742	108. Theodosius III	1180
75. Theophylact	748	109. Elias III	1182
76. Theodore	767	110. Christopher II	1184
77. John IV	797	111. Theodore IV (Balsamon)	1185
78. Job	810	112. Joachim	1199
79. Nicholas	826	113. Dorotheus	1219

114. Simeon II	1245
115. Euthymius II	1268
116. Theodosius IV	1269
117. Theodosius V	1276
118. Arsenius	1285
119. Dionysius	1293
120. Mark	1308
121. Ignatius II	1342
122. Pachomius	1386
123. Nilus	1393
124. Michael III	1401
125. Pachomius II	1410
126. Joachim II	1411
127. Mark III	1426
128. Dorotheus II	1436
129. Michael IV	1454
130. Mark IV	1476
131. Joachim III	1476
132. Gregory III	1483
133. Dorotheus III	1497
134. Michael V	1523
135. Dorotheus IV	1541
136. Joachim IV	1543
137. Michael VI	1577
138. Joachim V	1581
139. Joachim VI	1593
140. Dorotheus V	1604
141. Athanasius III (Dabbas)	1611
142. Ignatius III (Attiyah)	1619
143. Euthymius III	1635

144. Euthymius IV	1636
145. Macarius III (Zaim)	1648
146. Neophytos I	1674
147. Athanasius IV (Dabbas)	1686
148. Cyril V (Zaim)	1694

THE ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

From 1724, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchs of Antioch, from Sylvester to Gregory IV, who in 1913, while visiting Russia, consecrated Alexy (Simansky) bishop in the Cathedral of St. Sophia at Novgorod.

149. Sylvester	1724
150. Philemon	1766
151. Daniel	1767
152. Euthymius	1792
153. Seraphim	1813
154. Methodius	1823
155. Hierotheos	1850
156. Gerasimos	1885
157. Spyridon	1892
158. Meletius II (Doumani)	1899
159. Gregory IV (Haddad)	1906

MOSCOW AND AMERICA

From Alexy, later Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, each bishop consecrated by the one listed before him.

160. Alexy (Simansky), later Patriarch Alexy I of Moscow	1913
161. John (Wendland)	1958
162. Joseph John Skureth	1966
163. Nils Bertil Alexander Persson	1989
164. Samuel Guido, Jr.	2004

165.

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR.

SHARED SUCCESSION WITH THE PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW

The present Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Patriarch Kirill, and Bishop Byers share the same line of apostolic succession from St. Peter at Antioch down to Patriarch Alexy I of Moscow (consecrated 1913 by Patriarch Gregory IV of Antioch; Patriarch of Moscow 1945–1970). By his own hands Patriarch Alexy I consecrated the bishops from whom both lines descend: in the line of Patriarch Kirill, Metropolitan Nikodim (Rotov), in 1960; in the line of Bishop Byers, Metropolitan John (Wendland), in 1958.



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.



The Apostle Peter, from the icon of Sts. Peter and Paul, Cathedral of St. Sophia, Novgorod, about 1050, now in the Novgorod Museum. Via [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain; cropped and resized from the original.