



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

*from St. Peter at Antioch, through the Syriac Orthodox
Patriarchate of Antioch, 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 Ignatius Peter IV, Patriarch of Antioch, follows the list of the patriarchs of Antioch kept by the Syriac Orthodox Church: the same list by which that Church 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 Severus, the last patriarch whom both the Syriac Orthodox and the Greek Orthodox Churches count in common.

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
47. Martyrius	461
48. Peter the Fuller	465
49. Julian	466
50. John II	475
51. Stephen II	490
52. Stephen III	493
53. Calandion	495
54. John Codonatus	495
55. Palladius	497
56. Flavian II	505
57. Severus	513

THE SYRIAC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

From the deposition of Severus in 518, the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchs of Antioch, as that Church keeps their list, to Ignatius Peter IV, who in 1877 consecrated Paulose Mar Athanasius, Bishop of Kottayam, for the Church in India.

58. Sergius of Tella	544
59. Paul II the Black	564
60. Peter III of Callinicum	581
61. Julian II	591
62. Athanasius I Gammolo	595
63. John III of the Sedre	631
64. Theodore	649
65. Severus II bar Masqeh	668
66. Athanasius II Baldoyo	684
67. Julian III	687
68. Elias I	709
69. Athanasius III	724
70. Iwannis I	740
71. George I	758
72. Joseph	790

73. Quriaqos of Tagrit	793
74. Dionysius I Telmaharoyo	818
75. John IV	846
76. Ignatius II	878
77. Theodosius Romanus	887
78. Dionysius II	897
79. John V	910
80. Basil I	923
81. John VI	936
82. Iwannis II	954
83. Dionysius III	958
84. Abraham I	962
85. John VII Sarigta	965
86. Athanasius IV Salhoyo	987
87. John VIII bar Abdoun	1004
88. Dionysius IV Yahyo	1031
89. John IX bar Abdun	1049
90. Athanasius V Yahyo	1058
91. John X bar Shushan	1064
92. Basil II	1074
93. John bar Abdun	1075
94. Dionysius V Lazarus	1077
95. Iwannis III	1086
96. Dionysius VI	1088
97. Athanasius VI bar Khamoro	1091
98. John XI bar Mawdyono	1130
99. Athanasius VII bar Qatra	1139
100. Michael I the Syrian	1166
101. Athanasius VIII bar Salibi	1199
102. John XII	1208
103. Ignatius III David	1222
104. Dionysius VII Angur	1252
105. John XIII bar Ma'dani	1252
106. Ignatius IV Yeshu	1264

107. Philoxenus I Nemrud	1283
108. Michael II	1292
109. Michael III Yeshu	1312
110. Basil III Gabriel	1349
111. Philoxenus II	1387
112. Basil IV Simon	1421
113. Ignatius Behnam Hadloyo	1445
114. Ignatius Khalaf	1456
115. Ignatius John XIV	1484
116. Ignatius Noah	1494
117. Ignatius Yeshu I	1509
118. Ignatius Jacob I	1512
119. Ignatius David I	1519
120. Ignatius Abdullah I	1521
121. Ignatius Ni'matallah	1557
122. Ignatius David II Shah	1576
123. Ignatius Pilate	1591
124. Ignatius Hidayat Allah	1598
125. Ignatius Simon	1640
126. Ignatius Yeshu II	1655
127. Ignatius Abdulmasih I	1662
128. Ignatius George II	1687
129. Ignatius Isaac II	1709
130. Ignatius Shukrallah II	1723

131. Ignatius George III	1746
132. Ignatius George IV	1768
133. Ignatius Matthew	1782
134. Ignatius Yunan	1817
135. Ignatius George V	1819
136. Ignatius Elias II	1838
137. Ignatius Jacob II	1847
138. Ignatius Peter IV	1872

INDIA, CEYLON, AND AMERICA

From Paulose Mar Athanasius, each bishop consecrated by the one listed before him. With St. Gregorios of Parumala, Mar Athanasius and Mar Julius I consecrated Joseph René Vilatte at Colombo, Ceylon, in 1892, by favour of the Patriarch.

139. Paulose Mar Athanasius	1877
140. Antonio Francisco Xavier Alvares (Mar Julius I)	1889
141. Joseph René Vilatte (Mar Timotheos)	1892
142. Francis John Edmund Barwell- Walker	1923
143. Emile Rodriguez y Fairfield	c. 1961
144. Nils Bertil Alexander Persson	1986
145. Samuel Guido, Jr.	2004

146.

GARLAND F. BYERS, JR.

2013

SHARED SUCCESSION WITH THE SYRIAC ORTHODOX PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH

The present Syriac Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II, and Bishop Byers share the same line of apostolic succession from St. Peter at Antioch down to

Patriarch Ignatius Peter IV (Patriarch of Antioch 1872–1894). By his own hands Patriarch Peter IV consecrated the bishops from whom both lines descend: in the line of Patriarch Aphrem II, Gregorios Abded Aloho, later Patriarch Ignatius Abded Aloho II, in 1872; in the line of Bishop Byers, Paulose Mar Athanasius, Bishop of Kottayam, in 1877.



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. Peter, from the Ascension miniature of the Rabbula Gospels (folio 13v), a Syriac Gospel book completed in A.D. 586 at the Monastery of St. John of Zagba in Syria; Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence (Plut. I, 56). Via [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain; cropped and resized from the original.