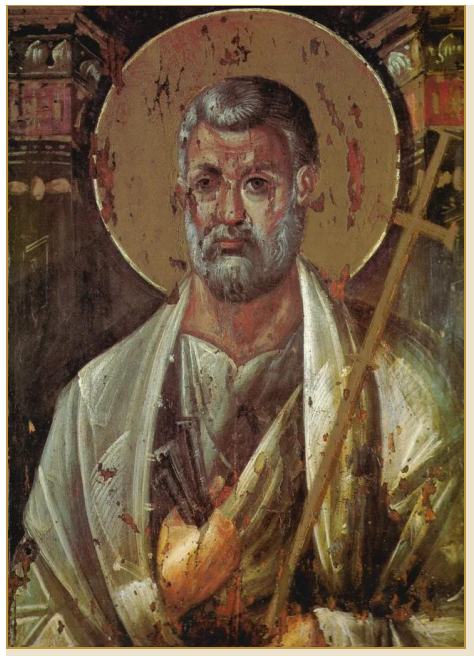




APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

from St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, 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 PETER, APOSTLE AND MARTYR ^{CO}

called by Christ about A.D. 30

named in Scripture: first named of the Twelve (Matthew 10:2); "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18)

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 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.

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. Linus, who succeeded St. Peter, to Pope Paul III, in whose reign Scipione Rebiba was raised to the episcopate in 1541.

2. St. Linus ^{CO}	c. 67	23. St. Stephen I ^{CO}	254
3. St. Anacletus ^{CO}	c. 76	24. St. Sixtus II ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	257
4. St. Clement I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	c. 88	25. St. Dionysius ^{CO}	259
5. St. Evaristus ^{CO}	c. 97	26. St. Felix I ^{CO}	269
6. St. Alexander I ^{CO}	c. 105	27. St. Eutychian ^{CO}	275
7. St. Sixtus I ^{CO}	c. 115	28. St. Caius ^{CO}	283
8. St. Telesphorus ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	c. 125	29. St. Marcellinus ^{CO}	296
9. St. Hyginus ^{CO}	c. 136	30. St. Marcellus I ^{CO}	308
10. St. Pius I ^{CO}	c. 140	31. St. Eusebius ^{CO}	309
11. St. Anicetus ^{CO}	c. 155	32. St. Miltiades ^{CO}	311
12. St. Soter ^{CO}	c. 166	33. St. Sylvester I ^{CO}	314
13. St. Eleutherius ^{CO}	c. 175	34. St. Mark ^{CO}	336
14. St. Victor I ^{CO}	189	35. St. Julius I ^{CO}	337
15. St. Zephyrinus ^{CO}	199	36. Liberius	352
16. St. Callixtus I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	217	37. St. Damasus I ^{CO}	366
17. St. Urban I ^{CO}	222	38. St. Siricius ^{CO}	384
18. St. Pontian ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	230	39. St. Anastasius I ^{CO}	399
19. St. Anterus ^{CO}	235	40. St. Innocent I ^{CO}	401
20. St. Fabian ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	236	41. St. Zosimus ^{CO}	417
21. St. Cornelius ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	251	42. St. Boniface I ^{CO}	418
22. St. Lucius I ^{CO}	253	43. St. Celestine I ^{CO}	422
		44. St. Sixtus III ^{CO}	432
		45. St. Leo I ^{CO}	440
		46. St. Hilarius ^{CO}	461
		47. St. Simplicius ^{CO}	468
		48. St. Felix III ^{CO}	483

49. St. Gelasius I ^{CO}	492
50. Anastasius II	496
51. St. Symmachus ^{CO}	498
52. St. Hormisdas ^{CO}	514
53. St. John I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	523
54. St. Felix IV ^{CO}	526
55. Boniface II	530
56. John II	533
57. St. Agapetus I ^{CO}	535
58. St. Silverius ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	536
59. Vigilius	537
60. Pelagius I	556
61. John III	561
62. Benedict I	575
63. Pelagius II	579
64. St. Gregory I ^{CO}	590
65. Sabinian	604
66. Boniface III	607
67. St. Boniface IV ^{CO}	608
68. St. Adeodatus I ^{CO}	615
69. Boniface V	619
70. Honorius I	625
71. Severinus	640
72. John IV	640
73. Theodore I	642
74. St. Martin I ^{CO} <i>Martyr</i>	649
75. St. Eugene I ^{CO}	654
76. St. Vitalian ^{CO}	657
77. Adeodatus II	672
78. Donus	676
79. St. Agatho ^{CO}	678
80. St. Leo II ^{CO}	682
81. St. Benedict II ^{CO}	684
82. John V	685

83. Conon	686
84. St. Sergius I ^{CO}	687
85. John VI	701
86. John VII	705
87. Sisinnius	708
88. Constantine	708
89. St. Gregory II ^{CO}	715
90. St. Gregory III ^{CO}	731
91. St. Zachary ^{CO}	741
92. Stephen II	752
93. St. Paul I ^{CO}	757
94. Stephen III	768
95. Adrian I	772
96. St. Leo III ^{CO}	795
97. Stephen IV	816
98. St. Paschal I ^{CO}	817
99. Eugene II	824
100. Valentine	827
101. Gregory IV	827
102. Sergius II	844
103. St. Leo IV ^{CO}	847
104. Benedict III	855
105. St. Nicholas I ^{CO}	858
106. Adrian II	867
107. John VIII	872
108. Marinus I	882
109. St. Adrian III ^{CO}	884
110. Stephen V	885
111. Formosus	891
112. Boniface VI	896
113. Stephen VI	896
114. Romanus	897
115. Theodore II	897
116. John IX	898

117. Benedict IV	900	151. Damasus II	1048
118. Leo V	903	152. St. Leo IX ^C	1049
119. Sergius III	904	153. Victor II	1055
120. Anastasius III	911	154. Stephen IX	1057
121. Lando	913	155. Nicholas II	1059
122. John X	914	156. Alexander II	1061
123. Leo VI	928	157. St. Gregory VII ^C	1073
124. Stephen VII	928	158. Bl. Victor III ^C	1086
125. John XI	931	159. Bl. Urban II ^C	1088
126. Leo VII	936	160. Paschal II	1099
127. Stephen VIII	939	161. Gelasius II	1118
128. Marinus II	942	162. Callixtus II	1119
129. Agapetus II	946	163. Honorius II	1124
130. John XII	955	164. Innocent II	1130
131. Leo VIII	963	165. Celestine II	1143
132. Benedict V	964	166. Lucius II	1144
133. John XIII	965	167. Bl. Eugene III ^C	1145
134. Benedict VI	973	168. Anastasius IV	1153
135. Benedict VII	974	169. Adrian IV	1154
136. John XIV	983	170. Alexander III	1159
137. John XV	985	171. Lucius III	1181
138. Gregory V	996	172. Urban III	1185
139. Sylvester II	999	173. Gregory VIII	1187
140. John XVII	1003	174. Clement III	1187
141. John XVIII	1004	175. Celestine III	1191
142. Sergius IV	1009	176. Innocent III	1198
143. Benedict VIII	1012	177. Honorius III	1216
144. John XIX	1024	178. Gregory IX	1227
145. Benedict IX	1032	179. Celestine IV	1241
146. Sylvester III	1045	180. Innocent IV	1243
147. Benedict IX	1045	181. Alexander IV	1254
148. Gregory VI	1045	182. Urban IV	1261
149. Clement II	1046	183. Clement IV	1265
150. Benedict IX	1047	184. Bl. Gregory X ^C	1271

185. Bl. Innocent V ^C	1276
186. Adrian V	1276
187. John XXI	1276
188. Nicholas III	1277
189. Martin IV	1281
190. Honorius IV	1285
191. Nicholas IV	1288
192. St. Celestine V ^C	1294
193. Boniface VIII	1294
194. Bl. Benedict XI ^C	1303
195. Clement V	1305
196. John XXII	1316
197. Benedict XII	1334
198. Clement VI	1342
199. Innocent VI	1352
200. Bl. Urban V ^C	1362
201. Gregory XI	1370
202. Urban VI	1378
203. Boniface IX	1389
204. Innocent VII	1404
205. Gregory XII	1406
206. Martin V	1417
207. Eugene IV	1431
208. Nicholas V	1447
209. Callixtus III	1455
210. Pius II	1458
211. Paul II	1464
212. Sixtus IV	1471
213. Innocent VIII	1484
214. Alexander VI	1492
215. Pius III	1503
216. Julius II	1503
217. Leo X	1513
218. Adrian VI	1522

219. Clement VII	1523
220. 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.

221. Scipione Rebiba	1541
222. Giulio Antonio Santorio	1566
223. Girolamo Bernerio	1586
224. Galeazzo Sanvitale	1604
225. Ludovico Ludovisi	1621
226. Luigi Caetani	1622
227. Ulderico Carpegna	1630
228. Paluzzo Paluzzi Altieri	1666
229. Pope Benedict XIII (Orsini)	1675
230. Pope Benedict XIV (Lambertini)	1724
231. Pope Clement XIII (Rezzonico)	1743
232. Bernardino Giraud	1767
233. Alessandro Mattei	1777
234. Pietro Francesco Galeffi	1819
235. Giacomo Filippo Franson	1822
236. Carlo Sacconi	1851
237. Edward Henry Howard	1872
238. Mariano Rampolla	1882
239. Joaquim Arcoverde	1890
240. 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.

241. Carlos Duarte Costa	1924
242. Emile Rodriguez y Fairfield	1954

245.

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. Peter 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.

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.



Icon of St. Peter, encaustic on panel, early sixth century, St. Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai. Image via [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain; resized from the original.