

Apostolic Succession

The term “apostolic succession” refers to the doctrine in Catholic and Orthodox churches that holds that certain spiritual powers, who Jesus Christ first entrusted to the twelve apostles, is passed on in an unbroken line of succession from apostle to bishop to bishop, and from these bishops to the priests who assist them in their pastoral duties. The validity of apostolic succession is a key factor in determining the sacerdotal powers of the Church.

The principal line of apostolic succession of the Catholic Church of Antioch comes from the Roman Catholic Church, through the Dutch Old Catholic Church and the Liberal Catholic Church in England. The validity of this line of succession is widely recognized, the earliest recorded member being Roman Catholic bishop Scipione Rebiba. More than 91 percent of all Roman Catholic bishops world-wide trace their own lineage to Rebiba (Bransom, 1990). The founder of our Church, Archbishop Herman Adrian Spruit, as you see below, is in direct succession.

In addition, the Catholic Church of Antioch has made an effort to unite eastern and western lines of apostolic succession. The Catholic Church of Antioch derives additional lines of succession from Archbishop Spruit’s co-consecrators (in addition to our name). These additional lines include the Syrian Jacobite Patriarchate of Antioch, the Chaldean Patriarchate of Babylon at Baghdad, the Catholicate-Patriarchate of Assyria, the Greek Melkite Patriarchate of Antioch, Patriarchate of Moscow, Armenian Catholicate-Patriarchate of Cilicia, the Metropolitan-Archbishops of Albania, the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, and the nonjuring Anglicans. Joseph Aneed, a Greek Melkite bishop with a claim to a patriarchate for North America willed his claim to Archbishop Spruit, thereby giving our church a similar claim.

We make our principal line of succession available for those who wish to gain a better understanding of the sacramental authority on which our independent branch of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church is founded. All Christians are grafted into the one vine, the mystical body of Jesus Christ.

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**on 12 March 1566,**

**Cardinal Scipione Rebiba,**

**Roman Catholic Bishop of Troia consecrated**

**Giullo Antonio Santorio,**

**Roman Catholic Archbishop of Santa Severina**

**who on 7 September 1586 consecrated**

**Girolamo Bemerio, O.P.,**

**Roman Catholic Bishop of Ascoli Piceno**

**who on 4 April 1604 consecrated**

**Galeazzo Sanvitale,**

**Roman Catholic Archbishop of Bari**

**who on 2 May 1621 consecrated**

**Ludovico Ludovisi,**

**Roman Catholic Archbishop of Bologna**

**who on 12 June 1622 consecrated**

**Luigi Caetani,**

**Roman Catholic Titular Patriarch of Antioch**

**who on 7 October 1630 consecrated**

**Giovanni Battista Scannaroli,**

**Roman Catholic Titular Bishop of Sidon**

**who on 24 October 1655 consecrated**

**Antonio Barberini (the younger),**

**Roman Catholic Bishop of Fr21scati**

**who on 11 November 1668 consecrated**

**Charles Maurice Le Tellier**

**Roman Catholic Bishop of Mieux**

**who on 21 September 1670 consecrated**

**Jaques Benigne Boussuet**

**who on 24 October 1693 consecrated**

**Jaques Goyon De Matigon,**  
who on 18 February 1719 consecrated  
**Dominicus Marie Varlet,**  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Babylon  
who on 17 October 1739 consecrated  
**Petrus Meindaerts**  
Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,  
who on 11 July 1745 consecrated  
**Johannes Van Stiphout,**  
Old Catholic Bishop of Harrlem  
who on 7 February 1768 consecrated  
**Gualterus Michael Van Nieuwenhuizen,**  
Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,  
who on 21 June 1778 consecrated  
**Adrianus Johannes Broekrnan,**  
Old Catholic Bishop of Harrlem,  
who on 5 July 1797 consecrated  
**Johannes Jacobus Van Rhijn,**  
Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,  
who on 7 November 1805 consecrated  
**Gilbert Cornelius De Jong,**  
Old Catholic Bishop of Deventer,

**who on 24 April 1814 consecrated**

**Willibord Van OS,**

**Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,**

**who on 25 April 1819 consecrated**

**Johannes Bon,**

**Old Catholic Bishop of Haarlem,**

**who on 13 November 1824 consecrated**

**Johannes Van Santen,**

**Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,**

**who on 17 July 1854 consecrated**

**Casparus Johannes Rinker,**

**Old Catholic Bishop of Haarlem,**

**who on 11 May 1892 consecrated**

**Gerard Gul,**

**Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht,**

**who on 28 April 1908 consecrated**

**Arnold Harris Mathew,**

**Old Catholic Bishop for Great Britain**

**who on 28 October 1914 consecrated**

**Frederick Samuel Willoughby,**

**who on 13 February 1916 consecrated**

**James Ingall Wedgwood,**

**Presiding Bishop of the Liberal Catholic Church,**

**who on 13 July 1919 consecrated**

**Irving Steiger Cooper,**

**Liberal Catholic Regionary Bishop for the United States,**

**who on 13 September 1931 consecrated**

**Charles H. Hampton,**

**Liberal Catholic Regionary Bishop for the United States,**

**who on 22 June 1957 consecrated**

**Herman Adrian Spruit,**

**who became Archbishop/Patriarch of the Catholic Church of Antioch**

**(Catholic Apostolic Catholic Church of Antioch)**

**who on 7 October 1980 consecrated**

**Meri Louise Spruit**

**Bishop of the Catholic Church of Antioch and who was enthroned as**

**Archbishop/Matriarch on 26 January 1986**

**who on 27 October 1990 consecrated**

**Richard Alston Gundry**

**Bishop of the Catholic Church of Antioch**

**who was elevated to Metropolitan on 20 September 2004**

**and enthroned at Loretto Chapel as Patriarch/Presiding Bishop**

**on February 19, 2005**

**On 12 May 2002 Matriarch Meri Louise Spruit**

assisted by co-consecrators Richard Alston Gundry and Clifford Kroski consecrated

**Mark Elliott Newman**

**Bishop in the Catholic Church of Antioch**

**who was elected to serve as Presiding Bishop**

**on April 25, 2009, and installed as Presiding Bishop on September 11, 2009.**

#### **References**

**Bransom, C. N. (1990). *Ordinations of U.S. Catholic Bishops 1790-1989*. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, Inc.**

**Van Campenhout, W. J. K. (1993). *Apostolic Succession in the Catholic Apostolic Catholic Church of Antioch*. Creswell, OR: Catholic Church of Antioch Press.**