

The Line of Apostolic Succession for The CEC®

The line of apostolic succession of the CEC® is through the Russian Orthodox Church before 1917, notably through Archbishops Makarij, Evdokim, Aftimios Ofiesh, Sophronius Bishara, John More-Moreno, Robert C Adair, and Dismas Markle using the Ordinal of *The Book of Common Prayer, 1928 Edition*. Below is the line of Primary Consecrators:

Apostles and Early Church Fathers	John IV Nesteutes 582-595	Nicephorus II 1185-1201
St. Andrew the Apostle 27	Cyriacus 596-606	Matthew 1201-1205
Stachys the Apostle 38-54	Thomas I 607-610	Cyril I 1205-1237
Onesimus 54-68	Sergius I 610-638	Joseph 1237-?
Polycarpus I 69-89	Pyrrhus I 638-641, 654	Cyril II 1240-1281
Plutarch 89-105	Paul II 641-653	Metropolitans of Vladimir and of All Russia
Sedecion 105-114	Peter 654-666	Maximus 1283-1305
Diogenes 114-129	Thomas II 667-669	Peter 1305-1328
Eleutherius 129-136	John V 669-675	Metropolitans of Moscow and of All Russia
Felix 136-141	Constantine I 675-677	Theognostes 1328-1352
Polycarpus II 141-144	Theodore I 677-679	Alexis 1254-1378
Athendodorus 144-148	George I 679-686	Cyprian 1381-1407
Euzois 148-154	Paul III 687-693	Photius 1408-1431
Laurence 154-166	Callinicus I 693-705	Isodore 1436-1441
Alypius 166-169	Cyrus 705-711	Jonah 1448-1461
Pertinax 169-187	John VI 712-715	Theodosius 1462-1467
Olympians 187-198	Germanus I 715-730	Phillip I 1467-1472

Mark I 198-211	Anastasius 730-754	Gerontius 1472-1491
Philadelphus 211-217	Constantine II 754-766	Zosimus 1491-1496
Ciriacus I 217-230	Nicetas 766-780	Simon 1495-1510
Castinus 230-237	Paul IV 780-784	Barlaam 1511-1521
Eugenius I 237-242	Tarasius 784-806	Daniel 1522-1539
Titus 242-272	Nicephorus I 806-815	Joasaph 1539-1542
Dometius 272-284	Theodotus I Cassiteras 815-821	Macarius 1542-1563
Rufinus I 284-293	Antony I 821-836	Germanus 1564-1565
Probus 293-306	John VII Grammaticus 836-843	Phillip 1565-1568
Metrophanes 306-314	Methodius I 843-847	Cyril II I 1568-1572
Alexander 314-337	Ignatius I 847-858, 867-877	Anthony 1572-1581
Patriarchs of Greece	Photius I the Great 858-867, 877-886	Dionysius 1582-1587
Paul I 337-339, 341-342, 346-351	Stephanus I 886-893	Patriarchs of Moscow and of All Russia
Eusebius of Nicomedia 339-341	Antony II Kauleas 893-901	Job 1589-1605
Macedonius I 342-346, 351-360	Nicholas I Mysticus 901-907, 912-925	Hermongenes 1606-1612
Eudoxius of Antioch 360-370	Euthymius I 907-912	Philaret 1619-1633
Demophilus 370-379	Stephanus II 925-928	Joasaph I 1633-1641
Euagrius 379	Tryphon 928-931	Joseph 1642-1653
Gregory I the Theologian 379-381	Theophylactus 933-956	Nicon 1653-1667
Nectarius 381-397	Polyeuctus 956-970	Joasaph II 1667-1672
John I Chrysostom 398-404	Basil I Skamandrenus 970-974	Pitrim 1672-1673

Arsacius of Tarsus 404-405	Antony III Studites 974-980	Joachim 1674-1690
Atticus 406-425	Nicholas II Chrysoberges 984-996	Adrain 1690-1700
Sisinius I 426-427	Metropolitans of Kiev and of All Russia	Stephan 1700-1721
Nestorius 428-431	Leo Michael 991-1004	Holy Synod 1721-1917
Maximianus 431-434	Leontius 1004-1015	Nikon 18??
Proclus 434-446	John I 1015-1037	Macarij (Michael Neveskij) 1884, Moscow
Phlabianus 446-449	Theopemptus 1037-1051	Evdokim (Meschersky) 1904 January 4, Moscow
Ecumenical Patriarchs of Constantinople	Hilarion 1051- ?	North American Synod of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church in North America, Inc.®
Anatolius 449-458	George 1072-1080	
Gennadius I 458-471	John II 1080-1096	Aftimios Ofiesh 1917 May 13, New York, NY
Acacius 471-488	John III 1096-1098	Sophronius Bishara† 1928 May 26, New York, NY
Phrabitas 488-449	Ephraim 1096-1098	Governing Synod of the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church in America
Euphemius 489-495	Nicolas 1098-1108	John More-Moreno‡ 1933 November 7, New York, NY
Macedonus II 495-511	Nicephorus I 1108-1124	
Timotheus I 511-518	Nicetas 1124-1127	Robert C Adair 1958 June 22, New York, NY
John II of Cappadocia 518-520	Micahel II 1127-1147	Dismas Markle 1981 September 27, Maitland, FL
Epiphanius 520-535	Clement 1147-1154	The Continuing Episcopal Church
Anthimus I 535-536	Constantine 1154-1160	Colin James III 1984 June 24, Fern Park, FL
Menas 536-552	Theodore 1160-1164	Henry C Robbins 1984 June 24, Fern Park, FL
Eutychius 552-565, 577-582	John IV 1164-1167	
John III Scholasticus 565-577	Constantine II 1167-1185	

Notes:

† According to a certified copy of the death certificate of Sophronius Bishara, whose last name is often misspelled "Beshara", he reposed on 9/19/1934, and not on 10/8/1940 or "1940" as reported by others including Denis Michel Garrison et al of Maryland (excommunicated, deposed, and anathemized), Bertil Persson of Sweden, and Khalil Samara of Antiochian Village based on headstone information "Bishop Sophronios [*sic*] Beshara [*sic*] 1888[*sic*]-1940 [*sic*]" . To the present, the official records of the "Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese [*sic*]" continue to misspell Bishara as Beshara and to spell Sophronios with a Greek spelling instead of the correct Russian transliteration of Sophronius.

In fact, the Antiochians do not know the date or place of birth of Bishara or when Bishara died. This is because they rely on writings by the pseudonym of "Fr. Bartimaeus", a name used by Terry Tyler, and whose writings are also attributed to Leslie C Sinclair who runs "Apostolic Orthodox Catholic Church", an acronym identical to and confusingly similar to "American Orthodox Catholic Church", the remnant which they also mistakenly claim to be. Tyler and Sinclair attempt to rewrite history by claiming Bishara was born "1888" in "Middle East", died on 5 October 1940 and was buried on 8 October 1940, within two days after obtaining the body and less than 24-hours after the death certificate time stamp, and with remains "reburied" in "August 1988" [*sic*]. (That the Antiochians became interested in the decedent's remains about 50 years after death makes no sense.) The death certificate that exists for a decedent at that time is of a man named Sophronios [*sic*] Bishara: with no social security number; no month, day, or place of birth, other than "1888" "Syria"; who died of kidney disease with onset in 1925 about 15 years earlier; and for whom on the death certificate and on the funeral director's certificate is twice forged the signature of the decedent's "Brother" named "Chris Beshara" [*sic*] and which also misspells the first name as Sophronios and the last name twice as Beshara. It is remarkable that the alleged informant on the death certificate as a brother to the decedent would not know the month and day of birth of his own brother. The recorded hospital location of death has no such record. No obituary data in *The New York Times*, or another specified newspaper, exists to verify the date of death. Tyler and Sinclair also wrote dishonestly that on "10 [*sic*] February 1934" "Beshara [*sic*] ... co-consecrated Christopher Contogeorge ... along with Archbishop Aftimios and Albanian Metropolitan Theophan (Fan Noli)". That lie is contradicted in the fact that participation by Ofiesh was impossible because he was married ten months *earlier* on 29 April 1933 and subsequently performed no official episcopal acts for the remainder of his life until 1966 when he died.

Mariam Namey Ofiesh, the widow of Aftimios Ofiesh, stated more than once and wrote that Bishara died in 1934, about a year after Emmanuel Abohatab (5/3/1933). The published records of Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral also state that Bishara died at a time between the deaths of Emmanuel in 1933 and Victor Abouassaly in 1934.

The correct death year for Bishara is also independently corroborated by other writers published *before* 1981 with the subsequent nonsense of Tyler et al 15 years later in March, 1996.

Here is the correct information from Bishara's death certificate: he died at the age of 28 from tuberculosis and pneumonia, making his birth year in 1906 in Syria; his given name was not Sophronios; he was in the United States since 1922 at the age of about 16; his mother's name was Zahia Okey; his father's name was Charles; his profession was "Clerk"; and he was buried on 9/22/1934, three days after dying. It is also in keeping with the tradition of the time that Bishara used Sophronius as a Church name which was not his birth name. Therefore the misspelled name Sophronios on certificates with sections forged by a funeral director for the name of Beshara in 1940 cannot possibly be for the correct person who used Sophronius as a Church name and who died according to independent witnesses in 1934 and for whom a death certificate exists that clearly contains no forgery.

The New York Times reported that Beshara [*sic*] was in attendance at the consecration of Christopher Contogeorge on 2/11/1934 in Bronx, NY.

An article without date, as published on the internet by Michael Kirkland, states "Sophronios celebrated the consecrating mass [*sic*]" and therefore is a rank forgery. (Note: Kirkland was convicted of Felony Forgery/Utterance for filing false insurance claims about church property that was not stolen; he subsequently served about 15-months until 12/01/98 in the Franklin County (Ohio) Correctional Facility (The Workhouse).)

Some have taken Bishara's presence there as evidence that he acted as consecrator of Contogeorge, but that is nonsense because in Orthodoxy only the senior bishop consecrates with junior bishops simply attesting corporately to the fact. Noli's consecration in 1923 predates Bishara's in 1928 by over four years. The argument from presence attests to the fact that many impostors, including Kirkland above who now claims a nexus with the Antiochains which they strenuously deny, attempt to connect Contogeorge with Bishara in order to supersede the dubious lines deriving from Contogeorge's recorded consecrator Fan Stylian Noli who provably acted without Orthodox mandate or authority.

Furthermore, the respective jurisdictions verified as forgeries these documents claimed by Kirkland: a letter exonerating Contogeorge of March 1, 1945 from Athenagaros and the "Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America"; and a letter recognizing Zurawetzky as "valid and canonical" of 1973 from Nikolaos VI of the Greek Orthodox Church in Alexandria, Egypt.

A published obituary for Contogeorge who died on August 30, 1950 states that in 1936, over two years after his consecration, Contogeorge, an archbishop from Lowell, MA, arrived in Bronx, NY to commence duties there. In fact, the last known consecration by Bishara was that of More-Moreno on 11/7/1933 in New York City.

‡ The literature contains many errors concerning More-Moreno. He was not later consecrated by John Thomas Beckles on 11/20/1943; he did not consecrate Perry Nikolaus Cedarholm on 12/6/1949 in New York City; and he did not consecrate Harold FA Jarvis on 10/30/1949 in Rockville Center, NY. In fact, the only known consecration by More-Moreno was that of Robert C Adair (John) and Robert P Adair (Gregory) on 6/22/1958 in New York City.