

The Most Reverend Louis Puscas, Bishop for the Byzantine Romanian Catholics in the United States, was born September 13, 1915, in Aurora, Illinois. He graduated from St. Michael Grade School, Aurora, Illinois, and attended Quigley Prep, the Minor Seminary of the Chicago Archdiocese.

His first two years of the Major Seminary were completed at Oradea, Romania. The next two years were finished at the Propaganda Fidei Seminary, Rome, Italy. While in Rome, he was enrolled as a resident of the Byzantine Romanian Rite Catholic Seminary, Pio Romeno.

Forced to return to the United States because of World War II, Puscas was placed in the Benedictine Major Seminary, St. Procopius, Lisle, Illinois, for his final two years. He was ordained into the priesthood, May 14, 1942, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by the Most Reverend Basil Takach, Bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Rite Diocese.

Assigned to the Latin Rite Diocese of Erie, PA., to serve in its Byzantine Romanian Rite parishes, Father Puscas appointed pastor of St. John Church, Farrell, PA., and administrator of St. George Church, Erie, PA. On May 26, 1960, he was appointed full time to the Faculty of Gannon College (now a university) as Dean of Students and Athletic Director. In January 1965, Father Puscas transferred back to his former Latin Rite diocese of Rockford, IL., and on February 1, 1965, was appointed pastor of St. George Byzantine Romanian Rite parish, Aurora, IL

.June 26, 1983, Father Puscas was ordained Bishop and was appointed as the first Exarch of the Byzantine Romanian Exarchy, founded December 4, 1982, by Pope John Paul II. Bishop Puscas was installed, August 28, 1983, at St. George Church, Canton, OH., by Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to the United States.

March 26, 1987, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, elevated the Exarchy to the rank of Diocese, and on the same date, appointed Bishop Puscas as the first Bishop of the Byzantine Romanian Rite Diocese of St. George the Martyr.