



Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius, Lithuania, bio

The Archbishop Metropolitan of Vilnius, Gintaras Grušas, was born on Sept. 23, 1961, in Washington, D.C., in the United States. He grew up in a Lithuanian family and became involved in cultural and Catholic activities. He was active at the Lithuanian parish of St. Casimir in Los Angeles, and in the Catholic organization Ateitininkai. He also was the head of the World Lithuanian Youth Association from 1983-1987, and also was a member of the Lithuanian World Community.

Prior to entering the seminary, he finished his studies in mathematics and information technology at UCLA. He then worked at IBM. He began his studies in theology at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He then continued his studies for two years in Rome at Beda College. In 1992, he was made a deacon and assigned as General Secretary of the committee to the apostolic journey of Pope John Paul the II. Upon returning to Rome, he continued his studies while living at the Pontifical St. Casimir's Lithuanian College, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Theology at the Pontifical St. Thomas Aquinas University.

On June 25, 1994, he was ordained a priest at the Archcathedral in Vilnius by Archbishop Audrys Juozas Bačkis. In the same year, he was chosen as the General Secretary for the Lithuanian Bishop's Conference. In 1997, he returned to the Pontifical St. Thomas Aquinas University in Rome, where he received a Ph.D. in Canon law in 2001. From 2001–2003, he was the rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, where he taught Canon Law. Since 2002, he had been the general secretary of Lithuania's Bishop's Conference.

In the decade before becoming bishop, he was a member and consultant of the Vilnius Archdiocese Priests' Council. He headed the commission that was preparing to revise the codes

of Lithuanian Canon law. Since 2006, he has been the spiritual leader of the Ateitis Federation (“Ateitininkų federacija”). He is also a Board Member of the Pontifical St. Casimir Lithuanian College, Committee Head for Katalikų Pasaulio Leidiniai and Vice President of the organization Lietuvių Katalikų Šalpa. He received the title of Chaplain and Monsignor from the Holy Father in 2003.

On July 2, 2010, Holy Father Benedict XVI appointed Monsignor Gintaras Grušas as an Ordinary of the Army. The candidate for Bishop was consecrated on Sept. 4, 2010.

On April 5th, 2013 Pope Francis appointed Gintaras Grušas as the Archbishop Metropolitan of Vilnius. The ordination took place on April 23 at the Archcathedral Basilica in Vilnius on the feast of St. George, the patron of the Archdiocese. He has been a member of Congregation for Clergy since 2014 and a member of the Dicastery for Communication since 2016.

He is the president of the Lithuanian Bishops Conference (LBC), as well as the head of the Permanent Council of the LBC. He’s the head of the LBC Commission for Education and LBC Commission for Social Communication.

Archbishop Gintaras Grušas speaks Lithuanian, English, Italian and French.