

Week 5 Report of Our Virtual Walk from Poland to Rome 10-20 through 10-26

During this week we collectively walked 537 miles and had 93 participants. Sources for images are given in smaller front near the image. You can click on images to increase their size for a better view. The green line on map of Austria indicates places we visited this week. We started the week at Horn in Austria which is the first green dot. A red line on the route map indicates general route for entire walk, image right.

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You may have noticed a significant bump in the number of participants and the number of miles this week. That is because we collected miles at the parish Fall Dance on 10/24. We had as many as 72 people dancing not only in the lines behind the leader but also along the sidelines. The dance with that high number of participants was the “Chicken Dance”! We did not use all of those miles this week but will use them up as we proceed in the next few weeks.

Although Horn is just a small town with not much to do, it provided a place to sleep on Sunday before we began our walk through Austria. And just to the southwest is Altenburg Abbey, our first Catholic visit in Austria on Monday morning.



C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons aerial view and high altar right

Zairon, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, below left, entrance to “old Monastery” below the current building.



Altenburg Abbey was established in 1144. As happens with most old buildings, the abbey underwent several refurbishments and reconstructions over time. The current building is Baroque in style. Originally it was built in Romanesque style. Remains of the old monastery can be viewed by taking stairs to the basement. The steps down are surrounded by the metal railing in the picture at left. The medieval monastery was discovered through archeological excavations in the current chapel. The remains of the old monastery include a cloister, a refectory, living quarters, and a Gothic St. Vitus Chapel. In one of the lovely gardens,



we were able to view the eastern part of the old monastery and see some of the striking façade of the old chapel.

As happened frequently in this part of the world, there have been numerous wars and other power grabs that have affected the Abbey. The Swedes destroyed it in 1645 and it was rebuilt. In the late 1700's the Emperor forbade this abbey and many others under his jurisdiction from accepting new novices but unlike most abbeys in the country, it continued to function. The Emperor was instituting enlightenment reforms to centralize his power over the church. He only allowed the abbeys and monasteries to remain open if they engaged in direct activities that benefited the citizens such as by providing education or care for the sick. Abbeys and monasteries that were primarily contemplative, were either closed or not allowed to accept new novitiates. And he took the education of clerics away from the church. After Emperor Joseph's death, his successor began allowing clerics to return to studying and contemplative life in their abbeys and monasteries but it took a while before many abbeys and monasteries recovered.

But life was still not always peaceful at the Abbey, despite how serene the current abbey appears! Starting in 1938, when the abbot would not fly a Nazi flag over the Abbey, it has suffered being occupied by troops, being disbanded with the abbot arrested, and used by Soviet Troops after WW II until 1947. As did much of Austria, the two World Wars took a toll on the Monastery. It was until 1947, that the Benedictines were able to begin restoring their buildings and then re-occupying the Abbey. After our visit here we headed for Klosterneuburg Abbey, which is north of Vienna.

This Abbey was begun in 1113 by Saint Leopold III. It has been under the monastic Rule of Saint Augustine from 20 years after its founding. Who is St. Leopold III? He was married twice and had numerous children and stepchildren. Different sources report different numbers of children; some say he had no living children from his first marriage, while others say he had at least one child from that marriage. His first wife died at a young age and he then married a widow with 11 children and apparently had some children with his second wife. He lived from 1073 until 1136 and was Margrave of Austria from 1095 when he was 22 until his death. He was a man who had powerful connections some of which were from his family's background, some made with his second marriage and some from marrying off his children to various rulers in other locations. In 1125, he was considered for election as Kaiser of the Holy Roman Empire but declined to be considered.

St. Leopold III is mainly remembered for the way he developed several Austrian cities and for founding several monasteries with Klosterneuburg Abbey being the most important one. The legend surrounding his founding of Klosterneuburg Abbey is that the Virgin Mary came to him and guided him to the location where the abbey was built. There he found a veil that had been lost by his wife years before. He chose that location as the site for the abbey and he also took up residence there later.

He also began three other Monasteries in the Vienna Woods, Heiligenkreuz, Kleinmariazell and Seitenstetten. All three remain in the highly forested areas today. These four Catholic establishments led to his canonization in 1485 by Pope Innocent VIII. St. Leopold III is buried at Klosterneuburg Monastery where he resided for some time. His skull can be seen in a reliquary wearing an archducal hat.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Klosterneuburg_-_Stift_\(3\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Klosterneuburg_-_Stift_(3).JPG)

Certainly, the highlight is the tomb of Saint Leopold III, shown below. Nicholas of Verdun, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



We then headed to the capital city of Vienna. Vienna is a large city with over two million people living in the city and another 900,000 living in the metropolitan area. That is about 1/3 of the entire country's population. The city has the Vienna Woods on the eastern edge, with foothills of the Alps to the northeast and the Danube to the south. It is only 31 miles west of Slovakia and 37 miles south of the Czech Republic and 37 miles northeast of Hungary. It doesn't have a lot more room to grow!

The area Romans founded a defensive fort at the site of Vienna in the first century AD. It became a Roman city in 212. Later the area was inhabited by Slavic people. By 1155, the Babenbergs had their family seat here and ruled until 1246. By the 16th century, the Habsburgs ruled and established Vienna as the seat of the Holy Roman Empire, which lasted until the demise of that empire in 1804. At that time the Austrian empire was formed with Vienna as its capital. The city received UNESCO World Heritage Site designation in 2001 but is currently listed as on the list of World Heritage in Danger because of construction of a very large hotel in the city center.

The city is famous for its list of classical composers including Schubert, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Johann I and Johann II Strauss and several others. It is also the home of Freud and the famed Vienna Circle, a group of famous philosophers.

World War II had a pronounced effect on Vienna. In 1938, Hitler announced to the Austrians that their country was now part of Germany. Almost immediately persecution of the Jews began. Prior to this time Vienna had a population of about 200,000 Jews. Many were driven out of the country, about 65,000 were killed and only about 5,000 remained after the war ended. All the synagogues were destroyed except for one which was too close to residential buildings to be demolished safely. Any Austrians who protested the takeover by Germany were immediately arrested. Although there was only one air raid and bombing in 1942, once the city had been taken by the Soviets in 9/1944 through 3/1945, 51 bombing raids damaged the city, primarily focused on the oil refineries but destroying many famous buildings in the city center as well. Looking at the city center today, it seems to have risen from the ashes quite strongly.

C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



We headed to St. Stephen's Cathedral in Stephansplatz, or plaza surround the Cathedral and its grounds. The current version of the Cathedral is Romanesque and Gothic in style. This version was begun in the 13th century. It was built upon the ruins of a former church, used part of an existing Romanesque church that had been extensively damaged by fire, and possibly covers a 4th century Roman graveyard. Over the years it has witnessed many important events of Austrian life. It has a total of 256 stairs if one climbs from the bottom to the top!

Wiener Neustädter Altar C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The current cathedral used some of the previous St. Stephen's church which was dedicated in 1147. In 1258 a major fire damaged the church. Then began years of repairs and additions to make St. Stephen's as we see it today. The initial rebuilding included the two towers of the old church which had remained intact. In the 1300's a three nave Gothic style choir was added. New towers were added over the years until work stopped in 1511. It was considered a parish church until 1469 when the diocese of Vienna was created. St. Stephen's then became the mother church for Vienna. The largest south tower is 446 feet high and is the tallest building in the city. The tower is nicknamed "Steffl" by the Viennese. It took 65 years to build, beginning in 1368.





During World War II, the cathedral was spared from bombing raids but looters in nearby shops caused a fire which spread to St. Stephen's roof. The roof then collapsed. While protective shells had been built to protect most of the valuable art and other treasures, the 1487 carved Rollinger choir stalls were burned. Reconstruction began immediately after the end of the war and re-opened in 1948.

C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left and below right

St. Stephen's roof is quite unusual!

Colored tiles adorn the roof in various patterns. The roof is 364 feet long so there is a lot of roof to cover. It has 230,000 glazed tiles creating the various patterns representing such things as the Habsburg rulers which is the double eagles shown at right. The roof is extraordinarily steep that rain runoff cleans it and snow rarely sticks.

Then we headed to the Charles Church (Karlskirche) which was built in baroque style. It is dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. It is located near the city center.



Thomas Ledl, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left; C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right

The interior is simply stunning with beautiful artwork on the ceiling and walls.



High Altar, Apotheosis of Saint Charles Borromeo, Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, below left



The Charles Church was built after the last major outbreak of plague hit Vienna in 1712. The Holy Roman emperor, Charles, VI, pledged to build a church dedicated to St. Borromeo after whom he was named. St. Borromeo was known as a healer for victims of plague. Although impossible today, the church was built so worshipers could see the Hofburg, the Imperial Palace. Charles Church was the imperial patron parish church until 1918. The high altarpiece, shown in more detail at left, depicts the ascension of the St. Borromeo.

Composer Vivaldi is buried in the church yard and concerts featuring his music are held in Charles Church. The Knights of the Cross with the Red Star cares for the church today. It is also the site for Catholic student ministry for the Vienna University of Technology. Then we headed to the oldest church site, the Peterskirche (Eng.: St. Peter's Church), left photo below, was built upon the site of what is believed to have been the first church in Vienna an old Roman church built in the around the 5th or 6th century. Nothing remains of the old church. A Romanesque style church, established by Charlemagne, was built on the site in the 800's. The current Peterskirche is Baroque in style and serves as a Roman Catholic parish church in Vienna. In 1970 the Archbishop of Vienna transferred the church to the priests of the Opus Dei. We spent some time in



prayer here before moving to our next church.

C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left and right images

In any case, a church of Saint Peter in Vienna is first mentioned in 1137. Around the end of the 12th century, the church became part of the Schottenstift, a Catholic monastery founded in 1155 Irish monks were brought to Vienna. [Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons](#), right, St. Peter's interior.



The St. Peter's church from the 800's also succumbed to fire.

Emperor Leopold I initiated the

building of the newest church after having vowed to build the church during a plague in 1679-1690 that ravaged Vienna. Building started in 1701. St. Peter's in Rome was the inspiration for the design of this St. Peter's. Consecration to the Holy Trinity did not occur until 1773. Because of space limitations—the city had been building up around the site—the new church had an oval interior which provided a good deal of space and a lot of gold stucco as seen in the picture above right. It was the first domed church in Vienna.

The Votivkirche (Votive Church) was next on our to see list of churches in Vienna. It is neo-Gothic in style. This church was created by a campaign to build a church to thank God for saving the life of Emperor Franz Joseph who survived an assassination attempt in 1853. The campaign collected money from throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire to build the church which was dedicated in 1879.



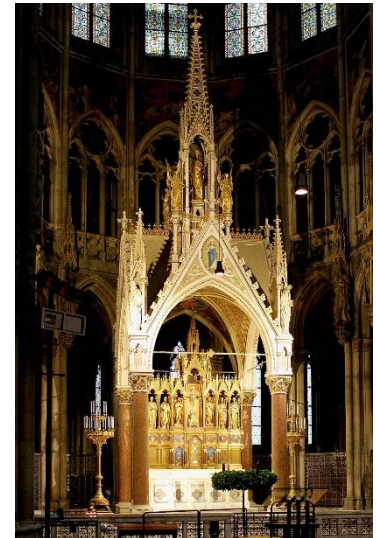
Gryffindor, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia

Commons, left

C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 3.0 AT, via Wikimedia Commons

The neo-Gothic church was built upon the site where Emperor Franz Joseph was stabbed, although not fatally. Others with him subdued the assailant who was later executed for the attempt.

The church, built of white sandstone, was one of the first buildings to be built near the Ringstraße, a wide boulevard surrounding the old city walls which have since been removed. It was not



built directly on the boulevard but on a near-by square, known now at the Sigmund Freud Park. But since walls were still in place, the new church did not have any parishioners and was meant to serve as a garrison church for soldiers. Unfortunately, sandstone is a soft stone so the Votive Church requires ongoing renovations to try protecting it from the effects of air pollution and weather erosion. It is certainly a stunning church inside and out.

Our final church visit in Vienna was to St. Rupert's Church, believed to be the oldest church still standing in Vienna. It is Romanesque in style. The church is located in the oldest section of the city in a section known Vindobona. The church is believed to have been built circa 796 – 829. This area of the city was the location of an old Roman fortress. There were several Roman settlements along the Danube around that time. Over the years, the old Roman settlement was destroyed as the city grew and new

buildings arose around the church. St. Rupert's became the seat of Catholic administration in the city in 1147.



C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

St. Rupert's has, of course, been renovated and repaired over the years. Changes have been made to the original design in those renovations. It was damaged at one point by a fire and then took some shelling in WW II. St. Rupert's has the oldest church bells in Vienna which were installed around 1280. It also has two stained glass windows dating from circa 1370. One window shows Christ crucified while the other is Mary with the infant Jesus.

Who was St. Rupert of Salzburg (660-710)? He is considered the patron saint of salt miners because when his bishopric received several estates, he promoted the local saltworks on those properties. He was a priest of Frankish descent. He was appointed to the Bishopric of Worms- a city on the Rhine River, but the mostly pagan populace around Worms did not accept his teachings. He was then installed as Bishop of Salzburg (which we will visit a bit later). In that place

he worked with people who already had some early Christian traditions which helped significantly in his evangelization there. He was able to re-establish a monastery at St. Peter's Abbey and also began building the Salzburg Cathedral, although he died soon after the foundations were laid. Additionally, he initiated higher education and some other reforms during his time as Bishop of Salzburg.

After leaving St. Rupert's it was time to see some other sights of Vienna! We started with Schönbrunn Palace: Vienna's Imperial Crown Jewel.

C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Simon Matzinger, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The image at left is the view of the back of the palace and the gardens while the image on the right is the front of the palace and



entrance. The image at left is the grand gallery and gives a great idea of the opulence we saw inside the Palace. Ralf Roletschek, GFDL 1.2 <<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/fdl-1.2.html>>, via Wikimedia Commons, left.

We also toured the palace grounds which included a lake, a palm garden, large green houses, and various gardens. It is an amazing and beautiful place that has been maintained well. It was originally a mansion with well-stocked grounds for hunting and fishing. The Palace was added in 1642 and started being called Schönbrunn.

Franz Joseph, an Emperor of Austria, was born and died at Schönbrunn. He spent most of his life living in the Palace. He had the longest reign as Habsburg Emperor in the history of the country, from 1848 until his death in 1916. He ruled Austria, Hungary, and other Habsburg states. But within two years after his death the Habsburg empire fell. The newly formed Austrian Republic became the owner of the Palace and kept it as a museum.

Next, we headed to Hofburg Palace. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wien_-_Neue_Hofburg.JPG, below left. Bede735c, via Wikimedia Commons , center image, crown jewels of Austria on display in the treasury in the Swiss Wing of the Hofburg.



Institute.jpg,



Wedding Supper at

Redoutensaal painting by [Martin van Meytens](#) , Google Cultural



The Hofburg Palace was the principal imperial palace of the Habsburgs built in the 13th century. As typically happened the building has expanded significantly from the original Palace. Once Schönbrunn Palace became the summer residence, Hofburg became the winter residence. Hofburg has served as the primary seat of government since 1279. Soon after WW II, it served as the president's residence and offices of the government.

The Hofburg complex includes several residences, a chapel, a library, the Spanish Riding School (left image below), the treasury, a theater, and the imperial mews. Mews served as stables when horses were the main source of transportation. Now, any remaining original mews mostly house cars. But Hofburg still has the Lipizzaner horses so the mews still serve the original purpose. sparre, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left



We were fortunate to be able to observe some of the training of these beautiful horses. They are trained to perform steps and maneuvers and almost seem to dance at times. And the guidance to the horse by the rider is barely visible even when you are searching for the command. The training was originally used to prepare the horses for battle fields but now the training is done for show. The horses are born black but

turn white as they mature. Only the mature stallions are used for shows.

Next on our list of sights in Vienna were several museums but we were able to decide which museum we preferred to visit since we had time limits and couldn't visit all. . Our choices were the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (Museum of Fine Arts), Belvedere Museum (Austrian art dating from the Middle Ages), Museum of Natural History (natural sciences), Albertina Museum (dedicated to print media with 65,000 drawings and 1,000,00 old master prints, more modern graphic works, photographs and architectural drawings), and the Leopold Museum (modern Austrian art). And for those amongst us who were not into museums, or who chose shopping over a museum visit, the Kohlmarkt (English: Cabbage Market) provided not groceries despite the name but enjoyable scenery and luxury shopping. It has many jewelry shops, and international clothing designer shops to browse.

But our time in Vienna had to end. We needed to continue on our pilgrimage so we headed to the nearby Wienerwald (English: Vienna Woods). The Vienna Woods are a forested highland region about 28 miles wide and 19 miles long. The Gölsen, Traisen, Triesting, and Danube Rivers mark the boundaries of the Vienna Woods. The Woods reach into the city of Vienna and are a popular recreation spot for the Viennese. The wooded highlands are a transitional area between the Eastern Alps, and the Carpathian mountains. The trees in the forest vary by area: beeches, oaks and hornbeams grow in the north while the south part has mostly conifers such as mostly pines and firs.

As we enjoyed this forested area, we did have some monasteries to visit. Earlier we mentioned a few had been built in the Vienna Woods. The first and perhaps the most well-known was Stift Heiligenkreuz, a Cistercian Abbey South west of Vienna C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



This monastery, which is the second oldest Cistercian monastery in the world, was founded in 1133 by Saint Leopold III, who we learned about earlier in northern Austria. It is also the oldest one that has been active continuously throughout its history. And as we have seen earlier on this trip, we knew many monasteries were closed for some reason or another at several points in Austrian history. Stift Heiligenkreuz was threatened with closure during Nazi occupation and many of the monks were imprisoned. But enough remained to keep Stift Heiligenkreuz open. After WW II ended,

monks returned and the place was renewed. During the period of Nazi occupation, from 1938 to 1945, the abbey's existence was threatened and many of the monks were imprisoned. It became re-invigorated after World War II to become what it is today. In September 2007 it was blessed by an official visit by Pope Benedict XVI. The left image shows the inside of the monastery church.



C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left
Se90, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right image

The right-sided picture shows the inner courtyard with the stone façade of the Abbey church in about center.



the

The Abbey is fully functioning today. It has many monks residing there. It is affiliated with 18 local parishes and also runs a Pontifical Academy.

While we were there, we were able to pray in the Holy Cross Chapel during the

Monks noon prayers.

We then continued through the Vienna woods and arrived at Mariazell. Here is an important



pilgrimage site in Austria, the Mariazell Basilica. The Basilica has a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary before which many pilgrims from all over Europe come to venerate. Officially, the Basilica is known as the Basilica Mariä Geburt (Eng: Basilica of the Birth of the Virgin Mary). Pope Pius X elevated the church to a basilica in 1907. It is the only national shrine in all of the German speaking counties. C.Stadler/Bwag, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The current church building is shown left.

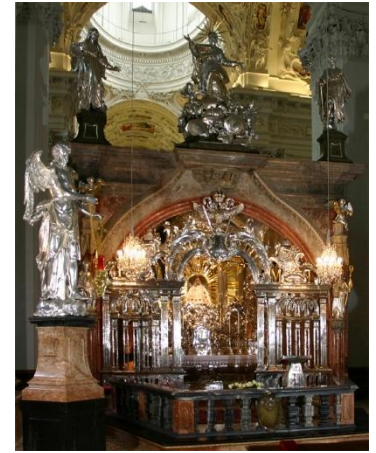
About 1103, the land around Mariazell was donated to St. Lambert's Abbey who built a cell here to serve the local populace. Later a Marian altar was constructed here and dedicated in 1266.

As has happened to many churches, the history of this church was not without tragedy. The original church built in the 1300's was Gothic in design. In the fourteenth century, a gothic church stood at Mariazell with a 296-foot-tall spire. Twice fires devastated churches built here. In the mid to late 1600's the church was repaired, enlarged, and redesigned in Baroque style. The old spire remained but two towers were added on the right and left of spire as you can see in the picture above. A high altar was consecrated in 1704 The most recent renovations were completed in 2007.

There are 12 side chapels each with an altar. The Chapel of Grace is shown right.

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The Chapel of Grace, or Gnadenkapelle in German, is in the 1690 part of the old church. This is the site of the first cell that the Monks built. It is also the chapel that holds the miraculous Romanesque statue of Virgin Mary known as Magna Mater Austria. The statue made of Linden wood is about 19 inches in height. Every year the statue is clothed in a newly designed ornate dress, known as a mercy dress. These dresses are Votive donations, hand-made, and usually given to honor the Virgin Mary for favors granted to the donor. The old dresses are kept in the Basilica's treasury and we were able to view about 150 of the dresses there.



Pilgrims started visiting the statue of Mary in the 12th century and the number of pilgrims increased in the 1330's with more coming from other countries. Additionally, around that time the secular court in Austria used this Marian sanctuary for a Zellfahrt. The Zellfahrt was a court-imposed sanction on criminals to journey to the site as atonement for criminal acts.

After the Counter-Reformation in the mid 1500's, the ruling Habsburgs made the site a national sanctuary. But in 1783 it was closed by Emperor Joseph II, who was discussed earlier for closing monasteries. And in 1787, pilgrimages to the site were forbidden by the Emperor. Once the ban was lifted, about a million pilgrims visited annually and continue to do so now.

We then left Mariazell and head north to the town of Melk to visit the famous Melk Abbey.

This abbey is owned by the Austrian Congregation of Benedictine Order and is situated along the Danube River, about west of Vienna. The Abbey was established in 1089 when the Margrave of Austria (the military ruler for the Austrian region of the Holy Roman Empire) gave one of his castles to the monks. Soon a school for monks was added and later a monastic library which was renowned for its huge compilation of manuscripts and for the production of manuscripts including many musical compositions. Because the original castle was gifted to the monks by a member of the house of Babenberg, the first dynasty of Austria, it is not surprising that several members of that family are buried at the Abbey.



Thomas Ledl, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, left;
User:MatthiasKabel, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons, right image



Leopold Altar
Painting by
Georg
Bachman.
1650



Georges Jansoone, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia

Commons, center image

The next and last stop for this week was at Linz, further west along the Danube from Melk Abbey. Linz is the capital of the state of Upper Austria and is the third largest city in the country. It is only 19 miles from the Czech border. Below is an aerial view of the central part of the city. Thomas Ledl, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, photo left.



It was also built first as a Roman fort to protect the Romans access to the River Danube. It was granted rights of a city in 1342. Linz is one of the main economic centers of Austria. But we stopped in Linz to see the largest church in Austria, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, AKA the New Cathedral by locals. It is Neo-Gothic in design.

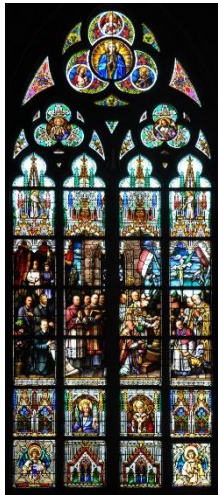


The plans for construction of this massive cathedral in French High Gothic style were begun in 1855 and the first stone laid on May 1, 1862. The laying of that first stone was done accompanied by a performance of Festive Cantata Preiset Den Herrn by Anton Bruckner. The piece is about 12 minutes long and if you wish to hear this song, click the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLyoPVXEtS4>

The Cathedral was consecrated in 1924. It can

hold 20,000 people. It is the largest at 427 feet long, and the ground covers about one and one-fourth acre. St. Stephan's Cathedral in Vienna is slightly taller than Linz' New Cathedral.



The cathedral is particularly known for its stained-glass windows. Some of the windows show various religious scenes while others depict donors or events of the church such as the laying of the corner stone. There are at least two levels of windows around the sides of the church. The Linz Window, depicting the history of Linz, is probably the most famous. During WW II there was damage to some of the windows and these needed to be replaced. The replacement windows display modern art rather than religious scenes. An example of the older windows is shown left.

Tiroler Glasmalerei, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, window left.

After seeing the new cathedral, we decide to see the old one also. While most just call it the old cathedral, the official name is Ignatiuskirche (Eng.: the Church of Ignatius) and some refer to it as the Jesuit church. The church was begun in 1669 and finished in 1683 but did not have the status of a cathedral until 1785. Its status as a cathedral ended in 1909. Haeferl, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, old cathedral below left.



The church was built by the Jesuits near the college they owned.

Anzi9, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons Altar, right

In 1773 the Jesuit Order was disbanded by the Pope. The new diocese of Linz and Passau was established in 1783 by decree of Emperor Joseph II without approval from Rome. Joseph II selected the former Jesuit church as the Cathedral

for the new diocese and appointed a bishop. The emperor appointed the bishop and designated the former Jesuit church as the cathedral. The Holy See officially established the diocese in 1785. The status of Cathedral was transferred to the New Cathedral in 1909 although it would not be finished until 1924. But the Jesuit order was restored in 1909 and the old cathedral was returned to the order.

Although there was more to see in Linz, it was the end of the week and we needed rest before heading out to our next pilgrimage site on Monday morning. Thanks for participating!

Your Tour Guide,
Kathy Scharer