

The New Cathedral also known as the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is a Roman Catholic cathedral located in Linz, Austria. The neo-Gothic church is the largest with 20,000 seats, though not the tallest church in Austria. Construction plans were started in 1855 by Bishop Franz-Josef Rudigier. The first stone was laid on May 1, 1862—an event solemnized by the performance of Anton Bruckner's Festive Cantata *Preiset den Herrn*.

In 1924 Bishop Johannes Maria Gföllner consecrated the finished building as the *Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception*. The plans, drawn by the master builder of the Archdiocese of Cologne, Vincenz Statz, were made in the French high Gothic style. The originally-planned, higher spire was not approved, because in Austria-Hungary at the time, no building was allowed to be taller than the South Tower of the St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. At 442.9 feet, the New Cathedral is 6.5 feet shorter than the Viennese cathedral. Particularly noteworthy are the cathedral's stained glass windows. The most famous is the Linz Window, which depicts the history of Linz. The windows also contain portraits of the various sponsors of the church's construction.

During the Second World War some windows, particularly in the southern part of the cathedral, were damaged. Instead of restoring the original windows, they have been replaced with windows displaying modern art. Also noteworthy is the nativity scene in the church burial vault, with its figures made by S. Osterrieder, and the display of the regalia of Bishop Rudigier.



Stewardship as a Way of Life: *“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” (John 14:26)* The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things, that there is no absolute truth. Pray to the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to guide our thoughts, words, and actions. What you put in your head, heart, and mind affects your actions. Put good things in and good things will come out.

