

Vienna, the ancient capital of Saint Leopold, Margrave of Austria, where died Marcus Aurelius in 180, the capital of the Princes of the dynasty of Hapsburg since 1276, was enriched by them with numerous religious monuments, among them the Church of Saint Stephen, the present Cathedral. This sanctuary dates back to the year 1144, when the son and successor of Saint Leopold laid the foundation stone.

In this religious edifice will be held the principal solemnities of the Congress. The area of the church is less than that of Notre-Dame, Paris. The latter is 130 metres in length, 48 in breadth, and 37 in height; the former, Saint Stephen's, Vienna, is only 108 metres long, and 27 in breadth, and the same in height. But Saint Stephen's tower is 136 metres high, exactly double that of the towers of Notre-Dame, Paris.

Not far from Saint Stephen's, Vienna possesses another religious edifice of vast dimensions, the Basilica of the National Vow, dedicated to the Divine Saviour. It is a grand structure, with two Gothic towers 99 metres high. It was erected as a memorial of the Emperor Francis Joseph's miraculous escape from the hands of an assassin, February 1853.

Besides these two sanctuaries situated in the city proper, it and the eighteen other parishes of Vienna possess one hundred parochial churches, conventual churches, and chapels of ease. Among the conventual churches there are notably the superb church of the ancient University of the Jesuits, that of the Scotch Benedictines, and that of the ancient Jesuit College from whose loggia Pius VII, on March 22, 1782, gave his benediction to more than 80,000 of the faithful on their knees in the square before the church. Added to these are the church of the Augustinians and the Court-parish church in the precincts of the royal residence; also that of the Redemptorists, where are enshrined the remains of Saint Clement-Marie Hofbauer.

All these churches are situated in the city proper, which forms the principal parish of the capital.

In its nineteen parishes and suburbs Vienna numbers about 2,250,000 Catholics. Such a city, such a popula-