

## Not only believing but believable: how a parish priest persuades people to join the Church



Rainer M. Schießler  
**Lordy – Jesus – Christ**  
[Himmel - Herrgott -  
Sakrament]  
Standing up instead of leaving

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**Rainer Maria Schießler**, born in 1960, is a Catholic parish priest. As a result of his unconventional pastoral ministry and activities that not infrequently catch the attention of the media he has been called "the best-known man of the church in Bavaria". Every year Schießler works as a server at the Munich Oktoberfest and donates his earnings to charity.

"Standing up instead of leaving" is Rainer Maria Schießler's appeal. At a time when as many people as never before are leaving the Catholic Church, the nationally famous priest from Munich has managed to get his parish to increase in size and keen to come to church. His recipe is to say what he thinks, and his sermons on ecumenism are often applauded. He has his very own way of doing things. In spring, for example, the passionate motorcyclist blesses the bikes of the dads in the parish and the kids' Bobby-Cars; on Christmas Eve he hires a DJ and serves bubbly – when all's said and done, it is Christ's birth that is being celebrated.

If the Church wants to communicate and be credible, it needs temperaments like Rainer Maria Schießler.