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**Karl Braunstorfer**

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**Karl Braunstorfer (\* 3 May 1895 – † 20 Sep 1978)**

1. Names: Heinrich Braunstorfer

2. Places: Katzelsdorf, Heiligenkreuz

3. Biography: As a son of poor farmers in Katzelsdorf, Lower Austria, K. boarded with Cistercian students as a schoolboy and entered the novitiate at Heiligenkreuz Abbey in 1914. K. was ordained a priest in 1919 and served as novice master from that year until 1939. In 1933, he was named prior. Just months after World War II, in Aug 1945, he was elected abbot and served until 1969. He was also Abbot President of the Austrian Cistercians and as such, took part in the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). He received the silver medal for service to the Republic of Austria in 1965. He was buried in the abbey's cemetery. Cardinal Schönborn opened the beatification process in 2008.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Extensive holdings in Stiftsarchiv Heiligenkreuz.

6. Literature: A. SCHACHENMAYR, Karl Braunstorfer, Abt von Heiligenkreuz und Abtpräses der Österreichischen Cistercienserkongregation, Berlin 2005.

7. Illustrations: Several photographs online: [stift-heiligenkreuz.org/personlichkeiten/abt-karl-ein-heiliger/](http://stift-heiligenkreuz.org/personlichkeiten/abt-karl-ein-heiliger/).

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