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**John Brenner**

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hebis.

**John Brenner** (\* 27 Dec 1931 – † 15 Dec 1957)

1. Name variants: János, Jancsi, Anasztáz, Anastasius

2. Places: Szombathely, Pécs, Zirc, Budapest, Győr, Szentgotthárd

3. Biography: J. attended a Cistercian-run gymnasium in Pécs for two years before the secularization of Hungarian Catholic schools in 1948. He moved to the Abbey of Zirc in 1949 to enroll as an oblate and pre-seminarian. He began the novitiate in 1950 under novice-master Fr. Lawrence 'Sigmond and received the name of Br. Anastasius. Two months later, the Communist government suppressed most Hungarian religious orders and the monks scattered. Brenner enrolled as a lay student of theology in Budapest and continued as a protégé of 'Sigmond by means of letters, clandestine meetings, and retreats. He took simple vows as an underground Cistercian in 1951. He then enrolled as a seminarian for his home diocese of Szombathely, studying principally at the seminary of Győr, where he met with great success and avoided collaboration with government agents. He received priestly ordination in 1955. He was assigned as a curate in the outskirts of Szentgotthárd, the Westernmost town of Hungary. Because of his success he was threatened by Communist authorities but did not silence himself or accept his bishop's offer of transfer. Using the claim that a dying man was in need of sacraments, assassins woke Brenner and lured him through the woods. The next morning his body was found by a path, bearing 32 knife wounds, still holding the holy oils and the Eucharist.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: "The Good Shepherd Chapel" was built at the site of his death in 1996. At his beatification his body and bloodied surplice were translated to the cathedral of Szombathely.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 15 Dec, beatified on 1 May 2018

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Translations of some letters and journals are available from Our Lady of Dallas.

6. Literature: D. FARKASFALVY, *New Cistercian Martyr: ... the Beatification of John Brenner*, in: CSQ 54 (2019), 99–108.

7. Illustrations: Photos available on the internet and from Zirc and the diocese of Szombathely.

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