

Joseph van House

Lawrence 'Sigmund

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85429>

Lexikonartikel | Article in a reference book, 2022

Empfohlene Zitierweise | Suggested Citation:

Joseph van House, Lawrence 'Sigmund, in: Dictionary of Cistercian Saints, hrsg. von Mirko Breitenstein, Jörg Sonntag und Alkuin Schachenmayr, Frankfurt am Main: AMAD, 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85429>.



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Gefördert durch

 Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



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Lawrence 'Sigmond (* 3 Aug 1911 – † 8 Jul 1964)

1. Name variants: László, Lóránt

2. Places: Zirc, Budapest, Pannonhalma

3. Biography: A revered priest and teacher at the Cistercian Szent Imre Gymnasium in Budapest, Abbot Wendel Endrédy called L. in 1946 to serve as novice master and junior master in the booming novitiate of Zirc. In 1950, after the order was suppressed in Hungary and Endrédy imprisoned, L. became the abbot's underground vicar, responsible for more than 200 displaced Cistercians and especially for the clandestine formation of young monks. One of these was Bl. John Brenner. L. was apprehended in 1961 and imprisoned for two years. Diagnosed with terminal cancer, he was released to die in Pannonhalma.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: Initially buried in Pannonhalma, then in 2001 translated to a tomb in the church of Zirc.

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: Venerated in Zirc and Dallas

d. Attributes: –

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

6. Literature: R. KERESZTY, Sugárzó lelke tovább világít. 'Sigmond Lóránt írásai. Zirci Könyvek 1. Szent István Társulat, Budapest 2000; E. GYÓNI, Mindszenty's Evil Spirit? The Role of Vendel Endrédy... in the Grósz Trial, in: A. FEJÉRDY / B. DIERA, (eds.) The Trial of Cardinal József Mindszenty from the Perspective of Seventy Years, Vatican 2021; E. BÁN, Cistercians in Socialism, in: Civic Review 14 (2018), 367–384, <https://eng.polgariszemle.hu/current-publication/148-religious-policy-history-and-ideologies/928-a-religious-order-on-trial-cistercians-in-socialism>; 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.

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