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Wendel Endrédy

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Wendel Endrédy (* 19 Jan 1895 – † 29 Dec 1981)

1. Name variants: Kálmán (birth name), Vendel, Wendelin

2. Places: Zirc, Budapest, Pannonhalma

3. Biography: A child of farmers, Kálmán Endrédy entered the Abbey of Zirc in 1917, took the name of Br. Wendel, and soon became a priest and a teacher of mathematics and physics at Zirc's gymnasium in Budapest. Admired for many qualities, he was elected abbot of Zirc in 1939 (and ex officio was a member of the Hungarian parliament until 1945). In 1950, he was deposed and imprisoned by the Communist government. He was subjected to brutal torture, a show trial, and extended solitary confinement. After the 1956 revolution, he was permitted to live out his days under house arrest in the Benedictine Archabbey of Pannonhalma.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: His solitary confinement cell is marked in the "Terror House Museum" in Budapest. His tomb in Zirc is set apart for veneration.

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: Venerated in Hungary and in Dallas.

d. Attributes: Black coat and white collar or Cistercian habit with white collar and abbatial insignia

5. Fontes: "Prison Memoirs" in: T. PRUIT (ed.), *Cistercians in Texas, the 1998 Jubilee*, Dallas 1998, 114–129. Many letters and documents are preserved in the abbey archives of Zirc, Dallas, and Pannonhalma and in the state archive of Veszprém.

6. Literature: 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.polgari szemle.hu/current-publication/148-religious-policy-history-and-ideologies/928-a-religious-order-on-trial-cistercians-in-socialism>; several books on him exist in Hungarian.

7. Illustrations: Photos available on the internet: <https://alchetron.com/Vendel-Endr%C3%A9dy>

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