

# Ferenc Kucsera, Dr

(23 September 1892, Léva – 25 June. 1919, Szentendre)

## Roman Catholic chaplain and martyr of Szentendre

Ferenc Kucsera was born on 23 September 1892 in Léva. His father, Lajos Kucsera, was a needy carpenter in Léva and his mother's name was Mária Féja. He started the Piarist Elementary School in Léva and from the fifth grade he attended the Saint Benedictine Secondary School in Esztergom. He graduated at this school than applied to the Seminary. As he was an outstanding student he was sent to Pázmáneum in Vienna to continue his studies. It was Antal Fester, the bishop of Győr who consecrated him priest on 21 June 1915 in the chapel of Pázmáneum. He was sent to his first service in Szentendre as a



chaplain. He took part in school divinity and in the activity of the local club for young men as a clerk. Due to the faith and love of his work he soon became beloved among both the Catholic and non-Catholic people of Szentendre. As he realized the increasing anticlerical campaign in the confusion resulting from World War I, Ferenc Kucsera published several articles in the local newspaper defending his church. He was arrested after the victory of the Republic of Councils in Hungary in the spring of 1919. However, he was soon released due to the pressure of his faithful followers. It was the ringing of the bells that signed the beginning of the rebellion against the Republic of Councils in Szentendre in the summer of 1919. He was put to interrogation because of the sounding of the bells but he said „I have already admitted everything I know about myself but I refuse to tell even a word about others.” These were his last words. He sacrificed his life as he did not want to betray the father of eight children and his fellows who rang the bells.

The 27-year-old priest was executed at the bank of the Danube. He laid down his life for his church and for his people. After several exhumation his grave is now on the Calvary of Szentendre. Later as a memorial in Ferenc Kucsera's honour an iron statue of a cross was erected at the bank of the Danube by the clergy of St. John the Baptist. The memorial cross is not far from the place where he was executed.

**In memory of the 100th anniversary of the death of Ferenc Kucsera,  
chaplain and martyr of Szentendre  
25 June 2019**

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