



### 100 Years Old

The new St. Pius X church building, above, is an obvious contrast to the old parish church named after St. Feehan, shown on left. To remind parishioners how the parish has grown since 1854, the model of the old building shown in close-up on Page 1 was set up next to the new during Christmas season. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will dedicate the new building at 3000 Chili Ave. in May. The model was built last year by Henry J. Lindsay.

Fr. Benjamin Kuhn

## A Friend Remembered

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

In those thrilling days of yesteryear college students were not like today's bunch. First of all, the war we were afraid of was the Korean conflict, we wrecked campuses but never our own, and we didn't go ga-ga over just any liberal, he had to be someone like Adlai Stevenson.

One of the most imposing figures (all 300 pounds of him, swathed in Franciscan robes) was Father Benjamin Kuhn, O.F.M. On Jan 31 in Albany, Father Ben, now referred to as the "most listened to" Franciscan in the world, will be honored on his 40th anniversary as a priest.

He used to call me his Boswell because I once "wrote him up" in our Siena College newspaper and once a Boswell always a Boswell. So here goes.

First of all, it's hard to resist writing about Father Ben. It's so easy. One of the seven original Franciscans at Siena College in 1937, he was the youngest of 10 children of a tanner and his wife of Olean.

His mother recounts that before he was born, a neighbor said to her, "You know you can't afford another. Why don't you do something about it?"

She replied: "I suffered for nine and I am not going to hell for the tenth."

Though avoiding a career in the local tannery, he has performed such jobs as operating a cafeteria, baking 30 pies a day (then known as Cupcake Kuhn — some cupcake!), was a U.S. postmaster, turned down a scholarship to medical school, and has served on state governmental commissions.

He finished pre-med at St. Bonaventure and has degrees in chemistry, philosophy and mathematics. All of which gave him the background to impart such pithy information in his calculus class as:

"If you want to avoid baldness, let the side strands grow long,

### NCEA Names Nun Department Head

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A nun from Indianapolis who is a specialist in continuing education was named to head the Adult Education Department of the National Catholic Education Association here.

She is Sister Gilchrist Conway, S.P., now director of adult education for the Indianapolis archdiocese. She is a doctoral candidate in theology at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Courier-Journal



FATHER KUHN

and comb across the head. That's the method I use."

One of the most sought-after speakers in the state, his topics range from "The Life of Christ" to "Peace Will Never Come from Gadgets" to "The Egyptian Onion."

Among his honorary titles are Honorary Holstein and Honorary Contour (from a soil conservation group).

He once won a duck in a raffle and you can imagine the scene with this 300-pound Franciscan strolling across campus followed by his duck.

Like many people with a sharp sense of humor, he has an equally keen insight.

"I can look a man straight in the eye when I'm speaking to him and tell if he's thinking 'I like that guy.' My goal is to have audiences realize that if I'm happy and fun-loving maybe Catholicism has something good to offer them, too."

Those who have heard him speak now number in the millions. Retired from an active teaching role, he still speaks to about 200,000 persons a year in a schedule of speaking engagements that covers morning, noon and night.

### Unity Service At Holy Rosary

An ecumenical service will be held at 7:30 Tuesday night, Jan. 23, in Holy Rosary Church, 414 Lexington. Seven area congregations have been invited.

"The Unity of the Spirit" is the topic of the sermon to be given by the Rev. Fay Cleveland of Grace United Methodist. Also taking part in the liturgy will be clergymen from the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Ascension Episcopal, Dewey Avenue Presbyterian, Christ Presbyterian, Sacred Heart Cathedral and Holy Rosary.

A "get acquainted" coffee hour will follow the service. Child care will be provided.

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Wednesday, January 17, 1973