

Champion - Maker

By Ed Feinen

HOLY ANGELS PARISH WILL MISS Father Denman Dewey. After eight years at the West Side parish, Father Dewey was transferred this week to St. Joseph's Church in Batavia.

WITH HIM, FATHER DEWEY carried a scrapbook full of athletic awards, and a thousand fond memories of "the wonderful group of boys it has been my good fortune to be associated with on Buffalo's West Side."

QUITE FITTING, INDEED, WAS that Father Dewey's crowning achievement in one of his favorite organizations, the Buffalo Evening News-Police Athletic League Midget Baseball League, preceded his departure by only a few days. Holy Angels' Class A (15-16 years old) team won the overall Erie County Midget championship by defeating West Seneca, 5-0, behind Frank Giardina's one-hit masterpiece.

FATHER DEWEY FORMED THIS TEAM five years ago and the boys had remained pretty much a unit ever since. This year, Holy Angels' "A" boys raced through their regular BEN-PAL season undefeated and appeared headed for the city title until they ran into the Kensingtons in the playoffs.

THE KENSINGTONS TURNED BACK Father Dewey's club, 4-2, in that game but it only served to make Holy Angels more determined. After battling to remain alive in the double-loss elimination series, Holy Angels found itself again facing the unbeaten Kensingtons. This time Father Dewey's boys won, 3-2, with a last-inning rally.

A few days later in Cazenovia Park, Holy Angels won the rubber match and the city title, 2-0, on Joe Minnuto's two-hitter.

FATHER DEWEY'S MIDGET champions come mostly from Bishop Fallon and Lafayette high schools. Giardina, Sandy DiPasquale, who plays any infield position equally well, and third baseman Sam Cliffs all attend Fallon. Lafayette contributed catcher Ralph Delmont, outfielder Pete Terreri and first baseman Vin Fazio. The other two outfielders, Pat Aquilina and Vito Masello, are undergraduates at Glover Cleveland and Cardinal Dougherty respectively. Holy Angels' reserve strength consisted of Pat Krueger, Ross Constantino and Ed McKenna.

FATHER DEWEY WAS THE FRIEND of all sports-loving boys. Groups would come to him for guidance in getting teams started and he helped them organize, found financial backing for equipment and uniforms, then placed them in organized leagues. At times, he was directly or indirectly in charge of a dozen baseball or basketball clubs.

BESIDES THE THREE BEN-PAL teams this year, Father Dewey was responsible for three Muny League teams in A, C and D competition, one Connie Mack team and an AAABA club. The Muny D team appears headed for a sweep in its division.