

# Kormendi Dies, Famed Sculptor

Eugene Kormendi, internationally known sculptor, died Friday night of a heart attack at his home, 2943 Upton st. nw. He was 72.

Two of Mr. Kormendi's best-known statues are the 22-foot "Christ, the Light of the World" in front of the National Catholic Conference building, 1312 Massachusetts ave. nw., and the Father Flanagan Memorial at Boys Town, Nebr.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, chaplain of the United States Senate, once described the "Christ" statue as "the most significant" in Washington. He called it "gospel in

bronze" and added that it "makes an altar of adoration for every passerby."

Mr. Kormendi, whose studio was also at the Upton st. address, was at work up until the time of his death. One of his most recent works, a heroic statue of St. Peter, is to be dedicated Sept. 29 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Olney, Md. Critics have described the statue as one of Mr. Kormendi's best.

A huge aluminum bas-relief of the Archangel St. Michael, recently unveiled in the lobby of St. Joseph's Hospital in South Bend, Ind., is another of his recent sculptures.

Other of his well-known works include the Virgin and Child at College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, N. Y., and portraits in bronze of President Truman and Cardinal Stritch.

Mr. Kormendi was born in Budapest and came to the United States in 1933, later being naturalized. He won many prizes for his sculpture in this country and abroad.

He studied under Rodin and Jean Paul Lorenz in Paris.



EUGENE KORMENDI

Prior to coming to Washington two years ago, he had been sculptor-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame for 13 years.

Mr. Kormendi's works are on display in many cities in this country and abroad.

He was an active member of the Liturgical Arts Society and the Hungarian Academy of Science and Art, now located in exile in Rome. He took a leading role in organizing and directing the Religious Arts Festival of the Archdiocese of Washington.

His wife, Elizabeth, a well-known mural painter and ceramic artist, is the only immediate survivor.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. Tuesday at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 6001 Western ave. nw.



One of the outstanding sculpture works of Eugene Kormendi is the 17-foot "Christ, the Light of the World," on the facade of the National Catholic Welfare Conference building, 1312 Massachusetts ave. nw.