

Priest Administered Last Rites to Kennedy

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ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan 25 (AP)—The Rev. Oscar L. Huber, 81, a Roman Catholic priest who administered the last rites of the church to President John F. Kennedy, died Tuesday of a heart attack.

On Nov. 22, 1963, Father Huber was watching television in Dallas when he and another priest heard the bulletin that President Kennedy had been shot while in a motorcade.

He went immediately to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where the President was taken, and shortly after 1 p.m. entered the hospital's emergency room to administer the last rites.

In later years, he disputed an account related by author William Manchester in the book, "Death of a President," which said the Priest had informed reporters of Mr. Kennedy's death.

"I answered that I did not know and that they would have to wait for an announcement," he maintained. "I obeyed the request of the Secret Service agent."

Father Huber had, however, also acknowledged later that he administered only a short form of rites to the stricken President and said this was so "since he was apparently dead."

A pastor of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Dallas at the time of the assassination, Father Huber returned here in semiretirement in 1968. He was an associate pastor at St. Catherine Laboure Roman Catholic Church in St. Louis County until early this month.

A native of Perry County, Missouri, he was a farmer

before entering the Vincentian Order in 1924, and was ordained in 1931.

He served parishes here, in Kansas City and in San Antonio, Tex., before his transfer to Dallas in 1959.