

Friends and Family Took

By JANNY SCOTT

Throughout yesterday, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was surrounded by close friends and family members who gathered at her Fifth Avenue apartment in Manhattan while a crowd of reporters, admirers, tourists and passers-by kept a sodden vigil outside the apartment.

A priest administered the Sacrament of the Sick, Roman Catholic rites for the seriously ill. Mrs. Onassis, the 64-year-old widow of President John F. Kennedy, died last night after suffering from an aggressive form of cancer.

"There's a lot of love in her room and in her apartment," Representative Joseph P. Kennedy 2d said after visiting his uncle's widow. Mr. Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, is the oldest son of former Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Onassis, who married the Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis in 1968, five years after President Kennedy was assassinated, returned home on Wednesday after spending two days at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

Family at Her Side

Throughout yesterday, family members came and went: her children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr.; her sister, Lee Radziwill Ross; her former brother-in-law, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and three of his nephews, Congressman Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Dr. William Kennedy Smith, and his niece Maria Shriver.

Msgr. George Bardes of the Church of St. Thomas More, Mrs. Onassis's parish church, administered the Sacrament of the Sick, said Margot Peet, a spokeswoman for the church. The sacrament was formerly called last

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rites and given to those close to death.

Outside the Fifth Avenue apartment building, between East 85th Street and East 86th Street, the crowd grew steadily.

They wanted her to die in peace, her admirers said. But they came anyway, for reasons they could not really explain, to stand in the rain, behind barricades and in the surging wake of a journalistic sea.

Many wanted something — a sliver of history, a glimpse of celebrity. Others simply said they had to be there if Jackie was about to die.

There was a furniture designer whose dead lover had idolized her. There was the man who remembered reading, as a child, that she would be moving into that building.

At one point John Kennedy Jr. emerged from the building's service entrance on 85th Street, accompanied by his sister, Caroline, and her husband, Edwin Schlossberg. A mob of reporters and photographers surged up the street after them, surrounding their car as they tried to leave.

Friends Leave Weeping

Later, Senator Kennedy arrived with his wife, Victoria, followed shortly by one of his nephews, William Kennedy Smith. Other friends and relatives left the building weeping. Mrs. Onassis's companion, Maurice Tempelman, spent the day at her side.

Among those drawn to the sidewalk outside Mrs. Onassis' apartment were tourists from Ireland and Brazil, lifelong admirers and a woman who promised a miraculous recovery if she could pray for seven hours in the apartment.

"I think it's real sad," said Sharon Madson, a tourist from Fargo, N.D. "It just seems this should be a private time. But obviously, I don't feel

Over After the Doctors Could Do No More

that too much. I'm sitting here gawking."

Some were blunt about their motives. "I just want to see one of the Kennedys," said Mike Stevens, a 35-year-old printer from Manhattan. "I should have brought my video camera."

Kennedy Shooting Recalled

Others said they were fans of Mrs. Onassis. Alexandra Rushfield, 22, an

aspiring writer, said she had been there before — sitting on a bench across the street from the building for three hours last summer, hoping to see Mrs. Onassis.

Barbara Skowronska, a 55-year-old housekeeper and Polish immigrant, recalled Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. She was a teacher in Poland, and when her husband heard the news on the

radio, he smashed it on the floor.

"We were poor. We had worked a year to buy that radio," she said. "Kennedy was a supporter of democracy. That's why I'm here."

"It's like the end of a dynasty," said Lynne Applebaum, a 33-year-old artist. "She's like a queen. I admire the way she raised her children and kept them out of the public eye. I had no idea she was that sick. They covered it up very well."