



At Grace Cathedral, voices raised in sorrowful tribute to the slain Senator

—Examiner photo by Bob Bryant

Priest's Bitter Words

'... Getting Accustomed to This Sorrow'

The Rev. Eugene J. Boyle said for everybody:

"I, like most of you, am becoming accustomed to this sorrow that presses down heavily on us . . ."

It was spoken with bitterness. Only nine Sundays before, Grace Cathedral had been jammed for a final tribute to the Rev. Martin Luther King, a Baptist. Now it was filled for Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a Roman Catholic.

SAME SONG

The Negro choir of the Third Baptist Church sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" for Dr. King, and they sang it again for Senator Kennedy.

Again the speakers in another inter-faith service assailed a smug and complacent society which, in their view, has much to answer for.

The Rev. Hans-Ludwig Wagner, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, reminded the congregation that flowers "keep the dead at a safe distance" and that eulogies are deceptive.

In his prayer he said:

"Help us to avoid the easy accusation whereby the oppressed are responsible for their oppression and the poor are responsible for their poverty . . . Grant us a sense of purpose and a sense of urgency."

OTHER KILLINGS

Father Boyle, director of the Commission on Social Justice of the Catholic Arch-

diocese, recalled the murders of the four Sunday School girls in Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, of the three civil rights workers in Meridian, Miss., of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, of Martin Luther King and John Kennedy and the others.

He said "a contagion of virulent hatred" must be prevented.

"We leave vengeance to the Lord," he said. "We must leave conviction and sentencing to the proper authorities. But we must assuage the bitter pain of our loss by the bitter knowledge that Robert Francis Kennedy, murdered in the cause of justice, has joined the fellowship of martyrs."

2500 PEOPLE

About 2500 persons crowded into the Episcopal church atop Nob Hill for the solemn rites sponsored by the Baptist Brotherhood, Baptist Ministers Union, the Board of Rabbis of Northern California, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Catholic Archdiocese, the Council of Churches and the Conference on Race, Religion and Social Concern.

Elsewhere, thousands of Northern Californians attended other services. Memorial rites were conducted in most military chapels, including all posts in the Sixth Army area.

More than 1000 Catholics attended Mass in The City's oldest church, the Mission

Dolores Basilica, and heard Bishop Merlin J. Guilfoyle say: "We celebrate his illumination as a great star of history." A nun wore a Kennedy button on her gray habit. A child wailed. Many persons knelt and prayed on their own.

BUDDHIST RITES

Services were conducted also in the Buddhist Temple.

In the Grace Cathedral rites, the Rev. A. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Methodist Church called for "all-inclusive" laws that would "ban all guns from the home of any persons."

He said guns lead to suicides, domestic murders and acts of crime: "They're easy to come by and easy to use on any man we would destroy."