

'Pray for Him,' Wife To Priest Cleric Gives Last Rites

By JOHN MCHUGH
Chicago Daily News

LOS ANGELES — The priest who administered the last rites to Sen. Robert Kennedy said today the senator's wife asked him in a calm and confident voice to "say a prayer for him, Father."

In an exclusive interview with the Chicago Daily News, Father Thomas Peacha said "She was tremendously calm. She was very confident he would be all right.

"Say a prayer for him, Father, that he'll pull through," she told me."

LAST RITES

"He (Kennedy) was unconscious or at least semi-conscious when I entered the emergency," said the soft-voiced assistant pastor of Los Angeles' St. Basil's parish.

"Since he was unconscious I gave him the emergency form of extreme unction (last rites of the Catholic Church). He was unconscious all the time.

"Everybody was very calm. They were confident.

"I could hear doctors saying, 'His breathing is good. His heart is in good shape.'"

'JUST WALKED IN'

Father Peacha, 36, who has been a priest for nine years, said he was within two blocks of Los Angeles Central Receiving Hospital when he heard the news.

"I instinctively turned toward the hospital. I just walked right in past the police. I was surprised that

Reagan Shocked - - Offers Help

SACRAMENTO — Governor Reagan expressed shock and profound regret early today upon learning that Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been shot.

An aide said Reagan immediately offered to make any resources and manpower of state government available if needed to assist in apprehension of the persons responsible for the shooting.

there had not been a priest there earlier."

"The senator was lying on a stretcher. He was covered with a sheet up to his neck.

"He didn't move. Nobody was making any effort to talk to him. Everybody seemed very calm. They seemed to have tremendous confidence."