

Mass for Pompidou similar to De Gaulle's

Associated Press

PARIS — World leaders passed through Notre Dame's Gate of the Last Judgment and into the solemnity of its seven centuries of French history to pay tribute yesterday to the late President Georges Pompidou.

Bach's St. Matthew's Passion and the Gregorian chants that Pompidou thought were Roman Catholicism's most beautiful prayers rang through the great Cathedral as princes, presidents and premiers from more than 80 nations were asked to pray for Pompidou's soul and for wisdom in guiding their nations.

President Nixon, occasionally turning his head to look at the cathedral's magnificent stained windows, and Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny, stood with the congregation as it prayed:

"Light with your light the leaders of nations and give them courage; that all countries at last free and in peace, may take part in the construction of the world."

The ceremony, simplified by the absence of the incense, miter or cross, was essentially the same one that Pompidou had personally supervised in Notre Dame at the death of Charles de Gaulle in 1970. Mme. Claude Pompidou, his widow, did not attend.

The leaders entered the church under the grimacing devils and angels that described the battles of good and evil for Notre Dame's parishioners in the Middle Ages.

One by one, they walked down a red carpet to their seats near the altar, decorated with six golden candles, flowers and a crucifix.

An immense French tri-

color hung from the arched vault of the church, lit to daytime brightness by television camera lights.

Nixon was one of the last of chiefs of state to enter the church. In a morning coat, but without the top hat worn by some of the other guests, he took a seat between Italian President Giovanni Leone and Hungarian Vice President Pal Losonczy.

Nixon took longer than any other dignitary to leave his car in front of the cathedral, waiting for his own security men.

The President's 15-second delay in emerging caused much craning of necks and jostling among the crowds. When he did get out, he was one of the few of the 60 world leaders to be applauded.

Although President Podgorny of Russia and Prime Minister Wilson of Britain and the others walked in the clear to the entrance, Nixon

moved in a circle of secret service men.

To Nixon's left in the cathedral was Queen Juliana of Holland and behind her

the Duke of Edinburgh, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and Crown Prince Harald of Norway.