

Kin Keep the Faith At Kennedy Bier

NEW YORK — (AP) — They kept returning to pray at his Bier. They kept returning to stand vigil at his side. There was, for Robert F. Kennedy's family, so little time left with him.

Each time they came yesterday they walked solemnly through thousands of mourners whose names they did not know to reach the casket that held Kennedy's body at the flood-lit center of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Ethel . . . Rose . . .
Jacqueline . . . Eunice . . .
Lee . . . Edward . . . Joseph
. . . Robert Jr. . . Kathleen.

They never seemed to notice the crowds, so engrossed were they in their own grief.

WIDOW

Ethel Kennedy, widow of the murdered senator, was there twice yesterday. She came first at midday with three of her 10 children, Kathleen, 16; Joseph, 15, and Robert Jr., 14.

As she entered the cathedral, dressed black, she immediately looked toward the African mahogany casket and it seemed to transfix her. She never took her eyes from it as she walked down the aisle to a pew. Her gaze did not waver when a priest stopped to whisper a few words to her.

She looked away only to bow her head and pray.

Mrs. Kennedy was back again at 8:30 p.m. with her sister-in-law, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, and eight children. They stayed briefly in the fourth pew. One of the little girls was sobbing.

TODAY

Mrs. Kennedy returned again at 4:40 a.m. today, 10



Eunice Shriver kneels by the casket of her brother in St. Patrick's . . . the little girl is unidentified.

—UPI Photo

minutes before the doors to the cathedral were closed to the public to allow final pre-

parations for the funeral. She seated herself in a pew near the casket, knelt and buried

her face in her hands.

Robert Jr., the senator's second oldest son, came three times to stand a 30-minute vigil by the casket and once with some family friends.

As he sat with his friends in the cathedral late in the evening, his eyes cast downward, one of the thousands of visitors to the bier screamed as he approached it. If the boy heard, he gave no sign.

His older brother, Joseph, came at least once, also to stand vigil.

Jacqueline Kennedy, who 4½ years ago lost her husband by an assassin's hand, came three times. She, of all the Kennedys, was the most openly emotional.

PRAYER

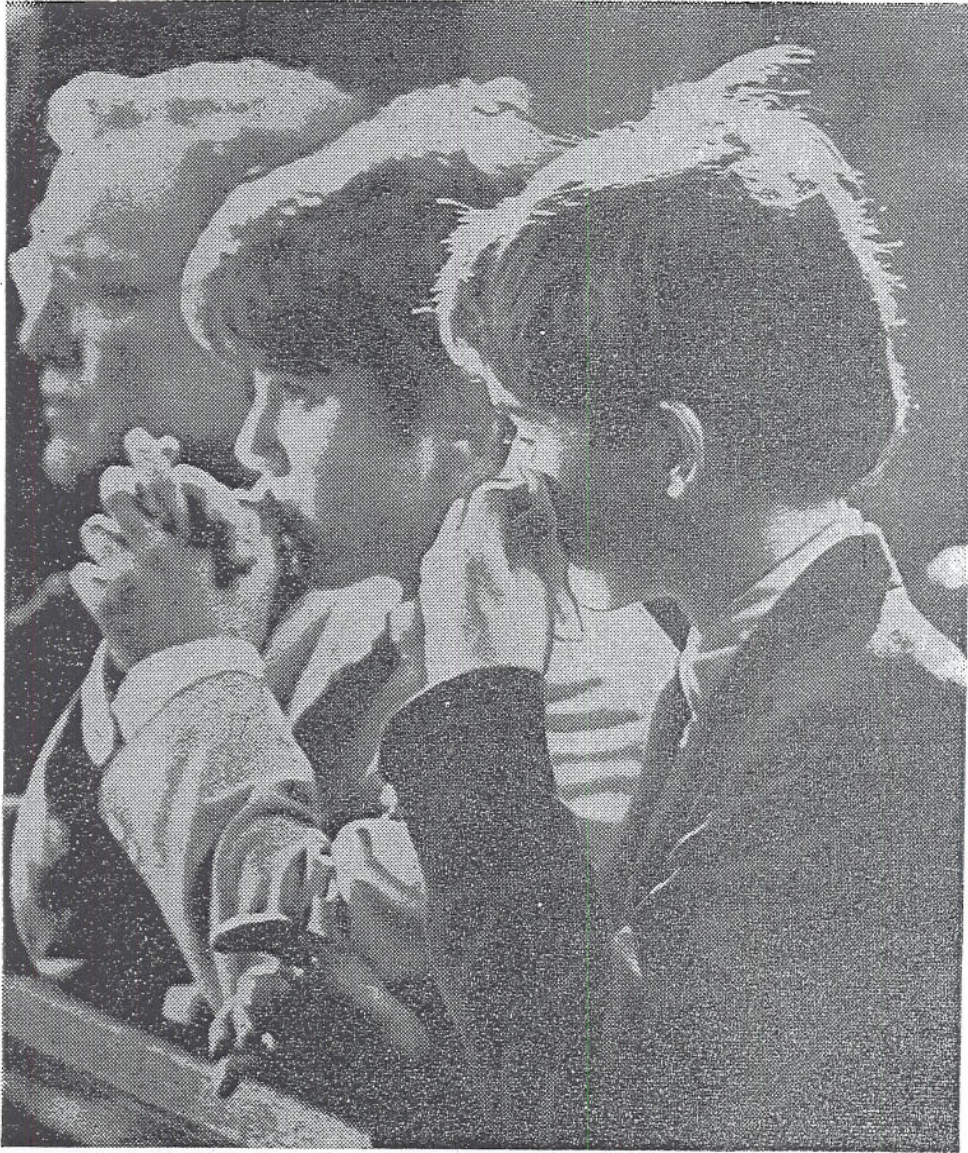
When she first came at midday, just as Ethel Kennedy left, Jacqueline Kennedy went to the casket, genuflected before it, then knelt at a pew to pray.

She momentarily rested her head on the back of the pew in front of her. When she raised her head slightly, she held a gloved hand over her eyes.

She was back again late in the afternoon with her two children, John Jr. and Caroline.

Caroline knelt beside her mother, but John remained standing, straining over a pew to get a better view of his uncle's coffin.

and Jacqueline returned still another time, early today, with her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill. When she reached the coffin, Mrs. Kennedy knelt and said a brief



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wipes a tear from his eye in his pew during services.

At left, his cousin, Christopher Lawford, gnaws at his fingers.

prayer, both of her hands on the coffin.

Robert Kennedy's brother, Edward, spent a night-long vigil alone by the coffin on Thursday.

He returned again and alone yesterday afternoon.

ELDERLY MAN

As he sat to pray in an empty pew, an elderly man who apparently did not recognize him tried to get into the same pew. Edward moved his legs to make room, but an usher stopped the unidentified man.

After 10 minutes, Kennedy left his seat to join the public

line. His hands clasped before him, his head slightly bowed, he walked by the dasket without pausing.

On 50th Street outside the cathedral, he continued to walk alone, oblivious of small crowd that had gathered behind him, in 90-degree heat.

Rose Kennedy, the mother, twice visited the third of her four sons to die an early, violent death. Mrs. Kennedy first came before 8 a.m. and sat unnoticed in a pew near the main altar for nearly an hour. She came again in the late afternoon and, looking

very tired, stayed only briefly.

Joseph P. Kennedy, the father who has been incapacitated by a stroke for several years, remained at the family home in Hyannis Port, Mass.

Prince Stanislaus Radzivil, Jacqueline's brother-in-law, took part in a 30-minute honor guard watch.

So did Sargent Shriver and his son Robert. Shriver's wife, Eunice, Robert Kennedy's sister, came twice within one hour during the late afternoon.

And they all returned to the side of the casket today.