

Father Won't Attend Rites

Hyannis Port, Mass.—UPI—Former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy is not expected to attend the funeral of the late president, it was announced Sunday.

United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem., Mass.) told a reporter his 75 year old father was "holding up pretty well" 18 hours after learning of the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Asked if the father would go to Washington for the funeral, Edward said, "No, I don't think so."

Suffered Stroke in '60

The elder Kennedy has been ill since 1960, when he suffered a stroke.

A seat was empty this Sunday in the white clapboard Catholic church in Hyannis Port.

At the 11 a.m. mass, the priest, Msgr. Leonard J. Daley, noted the emptiness perhaps symbolical of the heartfelt emptiness of a mourning nation.

The seat in a side chapel of St. Francis Xavier church was the one occupied by President Kennedy when he attended church while home from Washington.

"... It is empty," said Msgr. Daley from the altar dedicated to the president's brother, Joseph P. Kennedy, jr., who was killed in World War II.

Sobs Are Audible

"We like to think of him in the days before he became president when he worshiped at this altar," the priest said.

Sobs were audible among the congregation that included a 150 member uniformed veterans group.

"In the end he gave his life to all," the priest said. "To the final moment of his life he was dedicated to peace and the equality of all men. . . ."

The president's 72 year old mother, Mrs. Rose Kennedy, Edward and married sister, Mrs. Eunice Shriver, went to church earlier. The mother prayed through two masses starting at 7 a.m.

Mother in Vestry

Mrs. Kennedy, gallantly facing up to her grief, sat in the vestry. She emerged only to receive communion with the other parishioners. Senator Kennedy and Mrs. Shriver sat in a pew.

The elder Kennedy heard mass at his weather shingled house. The services were celebrated by an old friend, Father John Cavanaugh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, who flew in Saturday night from Washington.

After mass, the elder Kennedy and his niece, Miss Ann Gargan, 32, went for an hour's drive in a blue convertible with her at the wheel and circled the presidential plane Caroline

parked at Barnstable airport.

Mrs. Kennedy, the mother, took courage in prayer and in her indomitably strong will. She attends church daily.

After mass Saturday, she walked along the blustery beach of Nantucket sound where her presidential son loved to swim and sail.