

Kennedy Rite Priest Aide From Madison

The 56 year old priest who assisted Richard Cardinal Cushing Monday at the requiem mass for Mr. Kennedy is a native of Madison, who was ordained in Milwaukee in 1934.

He is Father Walter J. Schmitz, S.S., dean of school of sacred technology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., and master of ceremonies of the Washington archdiocese.

At the cardinal's elbow during most of the day Monday, his movements were watched by a nation in mourning which slowed to a near standstill to view the solemn mass on television.

Family Surprised

Father Schmitz's appearance on the TV screen caught members of his family in Madison by surprise, said Ed Schmitz, the proprietor of a men's clothing store. They had assumed one of the cardinal's aides would assist him during the mass.

"But I recognized him right away," said Ed Schmitz, the priest's brother. "I recognized his movements and, later, we could see his face more clearly."

Father John P. McCormick, rector of the theological college, said Father Schmitz had drawn the assignment in his capacity as master of ceremonies for the archdiocese and for Catholic university. Generally, Father McCormick explained, a master of ceremonies directs the movements of other clergymen on the altar during solemn religious ceremonies.

Born in Madison

Father Schmitz was born and

reared in Madison. He entered the seminary following his graduation from Central high school. He is a member of the Sulpician society, an order of priests who devote their lives to the training of young priests.

Following his ordination in Milwaukee 29 years ago, he returned to the college of sacred theology in Washington, where he has spent the major part of his priesthood. He was appointed dean of the college about 18 months ago, Father McCormick said.

Father Schmitz's two brothers, Gilbert and Ed, and a sister, Mrs. John Kessenich, live in Madison. Another brother, Raymond Schmitz, lives in Rockford, Ill.