

With Aching Heart, Citizens Give Thanks

By the Associated Press

America observes Thanksgiving Thursday but her heart won't be in it.

The tragic death of President Kennedy was too recent and too deeply etched for a normal observance of the traditionally happy time of bountiful feasts and family reunions.

Father John W. Regan, a curate at St. Francis Xavier church at Hyannis Port, Mass., where the president had a home, said only last Sunday:

"Here in America, this Thanksgiving will be different. This year, as the Pilgrims did, we will turn again to God. We have a great deal to be thankful for . . . the men who fought and died for us in the hot wars and in the cold war. We should be grateful for the great men God has given us."

Proclamation Reading

The usual religious services associated with the holiday—now 174 years old—took on special significance in a nation shocked by the assassination of a president. Almost every church and synagogue scheduled special services.

In his address to a joint session of congress Wednesday,

Mr. Johnson said ". . . on this Thanksgiving eve, as we gather together to ask the Lord's blessing let us unite in those familiar and cherished words: 'America, America, God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.'"

President Johnson urged that John F. Kennedy's Thanksgiving proclamation be read in the nation's churches as a memorial to the martyred leader.

Eloquent Passage

One of the last paragraphs of the proclamation, issued Nov. 4, says in the eloquence for which Kennedy was famous:

"On that day let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice and understanding among all men and all nations and of ending misery and suffering wherever they exist."

A Kennedy family gathering became assured when the president's widow announced plans to fly to Hyannis Port Thursday to keep alive a family tradition for her children.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, the slain president's parents, had been comparatively alone with their grief at their Cape Cod home, but the seashore residence filled fast as the holiday neared.

The widow and her children, Caroline and John, were to stay

in their own home in the so-called Kennedy compound and after the holiday will return to the White House for several days.

Caroline marked her 6th birthday Wednesday. John was 3 Monday, the day his father was buried in Arlington National cemetery.

President and Mrs. Johnson arranged a family dinner in their Washington home, the Elms.

The Johnson daughters, Lynda Bird and Lucy, were to attend the family dinner, along with Lynda's fiance, Bernard Rosenbach.