

# Requiem For RFK Memorial Mass And Musical Tribute Draws 2,000 To Princeton Chapel

By DONALD P. DELANY, Staff Writer

A deeply moving tribute to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy took place last night in the Princeton University Chapel. Nearly 2,000 people filled the huge Gothic edifice to attend a requiem mass in memory of Senator Kennedy, the first anniversary of whose death will occur next week.

The music for the mass was written by Frank Lewin, a movie and TV music composer who lives in Princeton, and this was its first performance. The new mass was sung by the Princeton High School Choir under the direction of William R. Trego and soloists Sylvia Jones, soprano; Leo Goeke, tenor, and Robert Oliver, baritone.

The concelebrated mass was sponsored by the Aquinas Institute at Princeton University. The principal celebrant was the Rev. Christopher C. Reilly, Catholic chaplain at Princeton and a native of Trenton. Priests of the Aquinas Institute were concelebrants.

## Dungan Preaches

State Chancellor of Higher Education Ralph Dungan, an adviser to President Kennedy and an associate of his brother, was the preacher. Dean Ernest Gordon of the University Chapel gave an address of welcome to the congregation, which included members of all faiths and many dignitaries. Among them were Dr. Robert F. Goheen, president of Princeton University and Mrs. Goheen, and several members of the Senator Kennedy's staff.

Dungan read a telegram from Senator Edward M. Kennedy expressing deep regret at being unable to be present. The Massachusetts senator also extended his gratitude to the "wonderful people who have made possible this tribute," and especially singled out Lewin who he said "devoted his great talent to memorializing my brother in his music".

## Simple, Powerful

Lewin, who conceived the idea for the requiem while watching Senator Kennedy's funeral train pass through Princeton Junction, has captured perfectly the spirit of supplication which is the essence of the mass for the dead. His requiem, which is one of the first ever written with English as its text, is neither operatic nor symphonic, as are so many of the great masses of the past.

It does not overwhelm the liturgy of the mass, but blends with it and enhances it. It is simple yet powerful, modern yet tonal. It has in fact many passages of haunting beauty. Especially memorable are the Offertory Antiphon, with tenor solo ("Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and the deep pit") and the exquisite "In

Paradisum" near the close of the service ("May the angels take you into paradise: may the martyrs come to welcome you on your way"). There is also a lovely Lord's Prayer, the music for which was included in the program last night for the congregation to sing.

## **High School Singers**

The mass was sung with remarkable competence and sensitivity by the Princeton High Choir, which apparently worked hard under Trego's direction in preparing it. The soloists were all outstanding, as was the performance of Nancianne Parrella at the organ. Noteworthy too were the playing of a small student brass ensemble during the Sanctus and the Dies Irae, and the solo flute of Jayne Seigel during the In Paradisum.

The congregational responses were beautifully sung by a smaller vocal ensemble drawn from the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart and seminarians at St. Joseph's College, under the direction of Leon J. DuBois.

Dungan, in his brief discourse, took as his text the familiar passage from an Epistle of St. James, "Be doers of the word". He said Senator Kennedy was a man of action, "ever on the move, unceasingly probing, rigorously questioning".

## **Compassion, Conviction**

All who knew him, he declared, "recognized and admired the qualities of compassion, conviction, tenacity and intelligence which he demonstrated to such a remarkable degree". Above all, he said, Senator Kennedy was a man of his time who had the compassion to understand and to feel deeply about the problems of his fellow man, whether in the high plains of South America or in the ghetto of Watts.

"He had the conviction that something could and should be done about the human condition and he had the intelligence, uninhibited by the fear of failure to devise the programs to meet those needs. But perhaps most importantly he had the tenacity and persistence so necessary to the attainment of difficult objectives. In short, he was a doer of the word".

Father Reilly, in the petitions offered before the Offertory of the mass, prayed that "Robert F. Kennedy's concern for the poor may prompt many to ask what they too can do for others". A large number of Catholics in the congregation received communion during the mass.