

Ohtas 'With Christ'

Four oak caskets, moving in rhythm to the shuffled steps of solemn pallbearers, passed through a phalanx of police and cameramen and up the steps into the hushed sanctity of Holy Cross Church for last rites of the Ohta family this morning.

A 24-car procession moved from White's Mortuary, where the four caskets had rested, closed, each with mounds of bronze 'mums, tangerine carnations and Worbern Abby roses on top.

Some 700 persons in the

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The Ohta Family Is 'With Christ'

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church, a great many with handkerchiefs pressed to their faces, watched as the remains of Dr. Victor Ohta, his wife, Virginia, and two sons, Taggart and Derrick, were arranged along the front of the altar.

The Ohtas' two daughters, Taura, 18, and Lark, 15, their faces hidden by black veils, were escorted into the church by two young men, both with longish hair. Mrs. Aiko Ohta, mother of Dr. Ohta, was held on both sides by friends as she entered the church. It was believed that the mother of Mrs. Ohta were also present.

Father William Scully, Holy Cross pastor, delivered the homily at the Mass of Requiem.

He said the Ohtas were a family's family, widely known in the community, although he did not know them personally.

Dr. Ohta, said Father Scully, was identified with Christ, because of his charity, the operations he performed without pay.

"He is with Christ, because he had love," he said.

The priest dwelled some length on the paradox of a world with so much riches, "so much poverty, racial hatred, so much dependence on drugs which wipes the mind from the mind."

"In all this affluence and sophistication we sense this shabbiness.

"These are terrible times. The anxieties of them won't go away. What the Lord wants us to give to other men is faith. What the world needs is faith. It is the only thing that will save us. Otherwise, like unused muscles, we will wither away."

Father Scully said that "every age knows a catch-word. In 1970 the world will be hostility."

The priest near the end of his homily, paused and, looking down at the bereaved family in the front rows, said:

"I know that Taura and Lark, in their sorrow, will pray for whomever is responsible for this act."

It was requested before the ceremony began that graveside ceremonies at Holy Cross Cemetery be kept private and that no one violate this privacy.

The four were buried in the family plot along side another son who died eight years ago in Chicago.

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