

Thousand attend funeral

Dr. Victor M. Ohta, his wife and two sons were buried Friday.

Well over a thousand people from the community thronged Holy Cross Catholic Church in Santa Cruz this morning to pay their last respects to the slain eye surgeon and members of his family who were killed Monday night in Soquel.

The Rev. William Scully said the Ohtas were "a family's family."

Father Scully, speaking before the sombre crowd, mixed with newsmen from all over the world, said, "Every age has known a catch-word. Hostility will be the catch-word of 1970."

Neighbors had referred to the Ohtas as "kind, generous people."

Dr. Ohta, the priest said, "Is with Christ because he had love."

Dr. Ohta was not a Catholic. His wife, a devout Catholic, brought up the children in the church and they attended area Catholic schools.

"The world is in dire need of faith," Father Scully told the crowd. "We are so affluent and so rich and yet in the midst of it you sense such a shabbiness."

The funeral was certainly one of the largest in county history. A 24-car funeral procession took the bodies to burial at Holy Cross Cemetery in Santa Cruz.

Despite requests from law enforcement officers and other persons involved with the case that the funeral not be turned into a "Roman holiday," it was unavoidable.