

"Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons

Requiem Mass for horse trainer James E. "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons, 91, acknowledged patriarch of the Sport of Kings who "stood for the best things about racing for the past 80 years," was offered in St. Mark's Church, Sheepshead Bay, Tuesday.

Mr. Fitzsimmons, who "never met a man he didn't like," died March 11, after winning almost 2,500 races in a career that began in 1885 at Brannan Brothers racing stable at Sheepshead Bay. Among his leading mounts were Nashua, Gallant Fox and Omaha, the Triple Crown victories of the latter two putting him in a class with only one other double winner, trainer Ben Jones.

He trained horses for the Woodward and Phipps stables, retiring in 1963. Recently he

had been living in Ozone Park.

Celebrant of the Mass was a grandnephew Rev. James Hahn, O.P., of Catholic University. Also among his 43 great-grandchildren is Sister Marie Annela, C.S.J., of Bishop McDonnell High School.

Other survivors include a brother Thomas, sister, Nora Fitzsimmons, and five children, all Brooklyn residents: John, James, Jr., George and Harold and Mrs. Edith Carr. Another son Harvey is deceased.

Msgr. O'Connor

Requiem Mass for Msgr. Francis J. O'Connor, 44, editor-in-chief of the "Magnificat," official weekly of the Buffalo Diocese, will be offered today (March 17) by Bishop James A. McNulty of Buffalo in St. Vincent's Church.