

Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road.

The family prefers that memorials be donations to the Memorial Fund of the First Congregational Church.

Fr. Christian Sandholdt

A Rosary will be said tonight for the Rev. Christian M. Sandholdt, associate pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto, who apparently committed suicide by hanging Monday. He was 45.

He was found Tuesday morning in a room at the parish house, a makeshift noose around his neck and attached to a door. He had been undergoing treatment for depression. The death has been called an apparent suicide by the San Mateo County Sheriff's office.

Father Sandholdt, who had been with the parish for five years, was a former school teacher in John Muir and Encinal high schools in Alameda. He joined the Society of the Precious Blood in 1968 and studied at St. Patrick's Seminary in

Menlo Park before being ordained in 1973.

He served on the board of Opportunities Industrialization Center West and was active in the charismatic movement of the church. He also worked with teenagers.

Father Sandholdt, a native of Oakland, was a graduate of the University of California at Davis, and spent two years in the Army's Adjutant General's office at Fort Ord.

He is survived by his mother, Adelaide Sandholdt of Alameda, and his brother, Peter Sandholdt of Yuba City.

A Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. today at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Viewing will be from noon until 4 p.m. Thursday at Jones Mortuary, 660 Donohoe St., East Palo Alto.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the church.

A second memorial Mass will be offered at St. Barnabas Church, 1427 Sixth St., Alameda, at 10 a.m. Friday, with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the same church.