

Priest Shot by Thugs on Easter

Flock stunned by attack near Brooklyn rectory

By Peg Tyre

A Roman Catholic priest was in serious but stable condition yesterday after he was shot by muggers on Easter Sunday near his Bedford-Stuyvesant rectory, police said.

The Rev. Charles Plock, who works with addicts, AIDS sufferers and poor immigrants, was shot in both upper thighs when two men attempted to rob him as he walked home from a nearby subway station, police said. Plock, 50, of St. John the Baptist Church at 75 Lewis Ave., was taken to Kings County Hospital.

"Father Charlie" Plock, who was a missionary in Panama for 15 years before joining the Brooklyn congregation, was returning from Philadelphia where he was trying to arrange for one of his parishioners to get into a drug treatment center,

said his pastor, the Rev. Thomas Hynes.

As he was walking home from the Myrtle Avenue station, Plock told Hynes, he was approached by two teenagers at Willoughby Street and Lewis Avenue. The teens tried to seize a briefcase from the priest.

Plock, a slight man who was not wearing a clerical collar, battled the young men. Police said the teens then pulled out a gun, fired a shot in the air, then fired a shot that pierced Plock's legs. The two young men then fled.

Police canvassing the area said they have no suspects in the shooting. Yesterday at mass, prayers were offered for Plock and for his assailants by shocked parishioners.

"We pray for both, because we believe good must triumph over evil," said Hynes.



The Rev. Charles Plock, during missionary days in Panama in early 1980s.