

Singing Savios Hit at Fair

By Dick McLean

THEY CAME, they saw, they conquered.

They came to New York City from Buffalo. They saw the World's Fair. They conquered the audiences who watched them perform.

The Savios, the 66-voice boys choir from St. Teresa's parish in South Buffalo performed at the Vatican Pavilion and New York State Pavilion at the fair last Saturday.

That was Irish Day at the New York State exhibit. Championship bagpipe bands and dancing groups as well

as outstanding singers and musicians displayed their talents to an appreciative audience.

THE CHOIR BOYS, who range in age from 7 to 14, should have been outclassed in this type program but they proved that they could more than hold their own.

From the opening bars of the "Ave Maria" to the closing rendition of "Danny Boy," the audience of well over 1,000 sat or stood almost motionless.

When their program was finished, the boys marched from the stage with drill team precision while the audience showed its approval with thunderous applause.

REV. LEO F. McCARTHY, the choir director, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Toomey, LL.D., pastor of St. Teresa's who was called on to introduce the group, were congratulated by several from the audience.

Teenagers William Schoellkopf, the soloist; Thomas Gutowski, the organist, and Joseph Falkner, the pianist, performed exceptionally well.

THE 10 LAY PEOPLE and four Sisters of Mercy who accompanied the choir hurried them from the State Pavilion to the beautiful Vatican Pavilion.

After viewing the "Eternity," the boys assembled in the chapel. The program there consisted of six hymns. Officials and guards in the chapel had to keep the lines of visitors moving because of the tremendous crowds. Several of the tourists took seats in the chapel and remained until the boys were finished.

Msgr. Toomey, sitting in the second row, proudly smiled and said to the several inquirers, "Those are my boys."

The Choir has been invited to participate at the fair again next year. Officials at both locations agreed that the time allotted the boys this year was too short and told them they would be given more time at their next appearances.

The trip was financed by the sale of St. Christopher plates, which may be attached to the front of cars, and with the proceeds of the choir's annual concert.

When the boys received official word that they would appear at the fair, they sold over 2,000 plates in one week.

As I See '95

HONOR FOR CHURCH—The pastor of St. Teresa's Church, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Toomey, LL.D., and St. Teresa's Boys' Choir, had principal roles Saturday at "Irish Day" in the New York State Pavilion at the World's Fair.

Culture of a different ethnic group is exhibited and presented daily in the pavilion. There is no charge. Msgr. Toomey's name was advanced by a New York newspaper publisher when Fair officers wanted "an outstanding Irishman" to represent the state's Western section.

The New York committee also asked for the choir, the Savios, also known as "Msgr. Toomey's leprechauns."

NATURAL CHOICE — The newspaper owner who suggested Msgr. Toomey for the honor is Frank O'Connor, also editor of the Irish Advocate.

O'Connor pointed out to the Irish Day planning committee that the priest has been active in cooperative educational programs between the United States and Ireland.

As campaign chairman of the Buffalo St. Patrick Scholarship Fund, Msgr. Toomey has arranged exchange of nearly two dozen students between Catholic colleges of the Buffalo Diocese and the National University of Ireland.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE — A highlight at the New York Pavilion program was the singing of "Danny Boy" by soloist William Schoellkopf. Also presented were dances and literary selections of Ireland.

After the appearance the boys went to the nearby Vatican Pavilion to present a concert of sacred music.

Arrangements for the second performance were made by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Schie-

Church in the Town of Tonawanda.

SALESMEN ALSO—The Savios, 66 strong, were organized four years ago by their director, the Rev. Leo F. McCarthy, assistant pastor at St. Teresa's.

The young singers raised part of the traveling expense by selling St. Christopher auto license plates. The remainder came from the choir treasury.

NO SURPRISE—Donat Parent, immediate past exalted ruler of Buffalo Lodge 23, BPO Elks, learned Sunday his reward for a year of capable leadership is—more work.

Ray Barnum of Lockport, president of New York State Elks Assn., was principal speaker at a testimonial dinner for Parent in lodge club-rooms, 23 Richmond Ave.

ABILITIES CITED—Barnum congratulated Parent for an excellent administration and thanked him for accepting election as vice president of the organization's West District.

"With Donat Parent on my staff," Barnum declared, "I'll be able to rely upon his efficiency and loyalty. I'm happy for the opportunity to work with him."

Children's Choir To Give Concert

The Savios, a boys choir from St. Teresa's Church, 1974 Seneca St., and recent performers at the World's Fair, will give a concert at Veterans Hospital, 3495 Bailey Ave., at 7 Thursday night. Also performing will be the South Buffalo School of Irish Dancing.

D'Youville Alumnae Reunion Is June 13

Alumnae of D'Youville College will hold reunion day on Saturday, June 13. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. in the college chapel by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo A. Geary, pastor of St. Martin's Church.

Following the Mass, the alumnae will be guests of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart at a reception in the dining lounge. Observing Reunion Day this year are classes ending in 4 and 9, beginning with the Class of 1923 and including the Class of 1959.

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Choir to Sing At Fair Today

A group of 63 boys who sing in the choir at St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, 1974 Seneca St., left Central Terminal Friday for two appearances in New York today as the World's Fair observes Irish Day.

The choir was accompanied by 22 escorts, including three priests and four nuns. The choir will sing at 11:15 a.m. at the New York State Pavilion under the direction of the Rev. Leo J. McCarthy, choir director. Two hours later the choir will make an appearance at the Vatican Pavilion.

Sunday, the choir will attend Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral for another rendition.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Toomey, pastor of St. Teresa's said the boys earned their fare to New York through the sale of tags for the front of automobiles