

On the MOVE

Show me the money

What do pink flamingos, pumpkins, art exhibits and face painting have in common?

They all help pull in cash to support youth groups in this diocese.

In addition to such familiar forms of fundraising as dinners and magazine sales, teens are finding creative — and successful — ways to flag down big bucks.

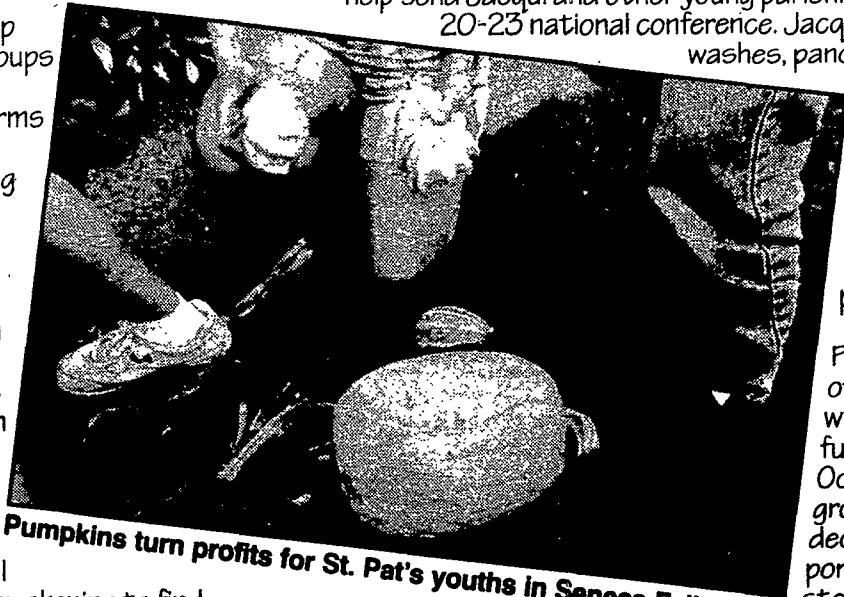
Innovation is the norm at St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, where the youth group has been working diligently in the past year to raise funds toward next month's National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City. The "Pink Wave" that passed through this Seneca County village was the most noticeable effort. In recent months, several residents were surprised upon awakening to find their lawns filled with plastic pink flamingos — courtesy of youth-group antics from the previous night.

"A bunch of kids would go around in this big van. We'd have to turn out the lights and go real slow, and make sure we didn't slam the door," recalled St. Patrick's Jacqui Homack, 16.

Jacqui added that when she walked by some of the houses on her way to school in the morning, she heard residents talking to their neighbors — still trying to

figure out how the birds had migrated to their lawns.

Youth-group members were happy to remove the birds — in exchange for a donation, of course. The scheme was wildly successful: According to youth minister Kitty Peterson, the flamingos brought in more than \$2,200 to help send Jacqui and other young parishioners to the Nov. 20-23 national conference. Jacqui added that car washes, pancake breakfasts



Pumpkins turn profits for St. Pat's youths in Seneca Falls.

and bake sales also have helped to raise money for the Kansas City trip, which is expected to cost more than \$700 per participant.

Now the St. Patrick's gang is off and running with its next fundraiser: During October, youth-group members are decorating lawns, porches and front steps with pumpkins, corn stalks

and Indian corn. The youth group charges \$15 per house — as well as another \$5 to remove the decorations.

St. Thomas More Church in Brighton has pumped some creativity into its fundraising activities as well. The parish will host an art show on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with proceeds partially financing the Kansas City trip.

According to two youth organizers, Emily and Sarah Kirchoff, the event will feature more than 30 vendors. Parish teens also will staff a table featuring such selections as tie-dye shirts and porcelain dolls made by youth-

"All that we sell at the pure profit. There's just in the parish, and we need it," said Emily, 14. She also both plan to attend the convention. Car washes and a bottle-and-can drive have helped raise funds for the group's trip.

Also on Oct. 25, St. John the Evangelist will sponsor a dance from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. of the last events in an incredible 23 fundraising activities to support the Kansas City trip. As of youth minister Sue Ver \$12,000 had been raised.

Ryan McKee, 15, and his family coordinated a village last fall, as well as

"We got a lot more people ask for money for going to say yes," Ryan

Youths at St. Gabriel also staged a long list of activities: spaghetti dinner booth at the parish; babysitting for parish appeals to the congregation; Masses in August.

According to Barbara St. Gabriel's youths have a \$7,800 goal through enable 11 teens to travel.

One of the youths, E gratified by the parish

"The people were nice that 11 of us from such Kansas City)," said Brother Pat

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