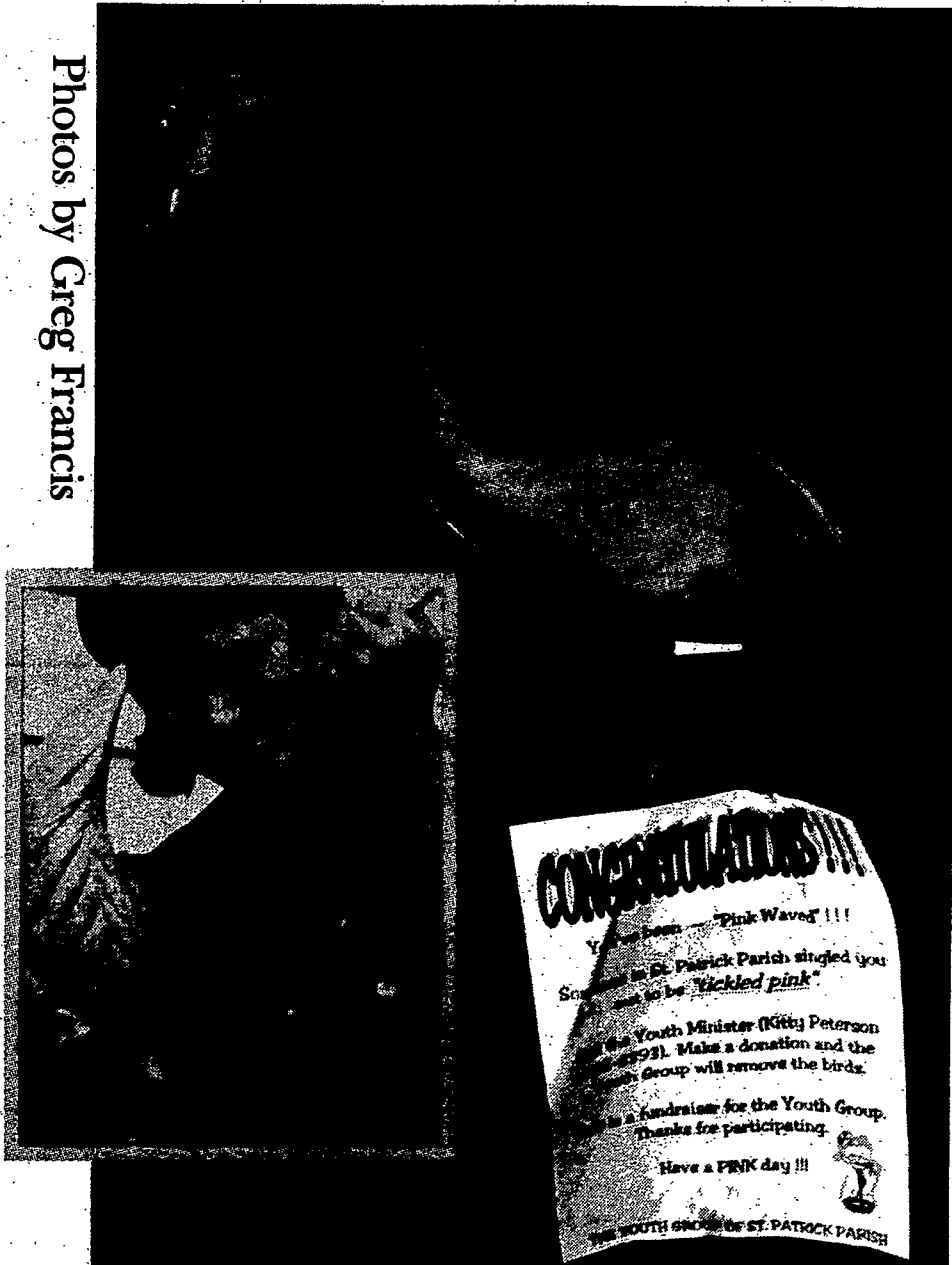


PINK



Photos by Greg Francis



Marie Peterson assembles a flamingo for the parish youth group's fundraising "Pink Wave."

Nature trivia question: What large "birds" do Alaska and Seneca Falls, N.Y., have in common?

Pink flamingos ... with strange migration patterns. The "Pink Wave" first landed in Seneca Falls in August of 1997 and returned for an encore last month. Teens secretly "decorated" the lawns of area residences at night with plastic pink flamingos, and gladly returned to remove the birds — provided that residents made a cash donation to St. Patrick's Church youth ministry. The youth group also collected "insurance money" from those wishing to avoid having their lawns covered.

According to Kitty Peterson, St. Patrick's youth minister, the Pink Wave idea came from her father. During a visit to Peterson's brother in Alaska, he noticed a newspaper story about another pink flamingo youth-group fundraiser and passed the information on.

"He knows I'm always looking for new ideas," Peterson explained.

Last summer's initial Pink Wave was wildly successful, Peterson said. Combined with other events, it helped to raise \$2,300. The money enabled 14 youths and three adults from St. Patrick's to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City last November at a greatly reduced cost.

Peterson said that funds from this summer's Pink Wave will be used toward diocesan youth retreats throughout the upcoming school year. Next summer, she added, the flamingos will flock back to Seneca Falls in preparation for the next national youth conference, to be held in St. Louis in the fall of 1999.

Naturally, some people have been befuddled by their newly decorated lawns after the Pink Wave has descended upon them. One of last month's victims, Peterson noted, was Tony Ferrara, principal of Mynderse Academy high school in Seneca Falls. He made the fatal mistake of not purchasing insurance, as is the custom with area school principals.

"We thought he was mad because we came back to his house to remove the flamingos, and he had already taken them down. He said he was supposed to be having a party for one of his wife's friends, and he had to get those storks off the yard or people would think it was a baby shower," Peterson recalled. "My kids went, 'They're not storks, they're flamingos!'"

Also last month, a stranger approached the St. Patrick's youths to ask for directions while they were hard at work on a lawn late one night. Unaware of the Pink Wave project, the stranger asked if it wouldn't be easier to decorate lawns during the day.

Overall, Peterson said, the people who fell victim to the Pink Wave were "thoroughly thrilled." And the youths found this to be an enjoyable fundraiser as well, she added.

"We ended up having a ball. It's a prank, and they're actually doing something successful with it," Peterson said.

Share a Great Compassion



Sr. M. Lucy
Native of: San Francisco, California
Prior Experience: Medical Technologist

When I was in my mid-thirties, I felt myself drawn to God. One evening I had occasion to read closely the 25th Responsorial Psalm... "One thing I ask is to dwell in the house of the Lord forever... behold His beauty." The words hit me profoundly. It was as if they expressed my deepest heart's desire.

A few months later I applied to the Hawthorne Dominicans and here I am. In retrospect, how simply and smoothly Our Lord guided me along the journey of discernment.

The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne

New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, Minnesota

We nurse incurable cancer patients in seven free, modern nursing homes. Many who enter our community have no prior nursing experience. Living our vows and participating in the life of the Church by prayer and sacraments enables us to serve God in this apostolate.

Interested women are invited to visit throughout the year.

For more information: write or call, Sr. M. Joseph, O.P.,
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532 • Tel: (914) 769-4794
Visit our WEB site - <http://www.hawthorne-dominicans.org/dsh/dshmain.html>

Name _____ Phone () _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Kids' Answers from page 12

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Genesis OT | 6. Matthew NT |
| 2. Mark NT | 7. Ruth OT |
| 3. Romans NT | 8. Judges OT |
| 4. Job OT | 9. Philemon NT |
| 5. Joshua OT | 10. James NT |

Check out the online version of On the Move —
and browse past articles —

@ www.catholiccourier.com/onthemove.html