

The atmosphere of the decorations,  
especially Leroy Ewy's scenery makes it special  
and romantic for couples young and old.

Is that Leroy in the boat helping the young  
couple to have a romantic moment?

### *La Dolce Vita—The Sweet Life*



Its not too late, we still need lots of help?

**Call the office 830-2818 or JoLe at 830-2397**

### Italian Dinner and The Boy Who Couldn't Find His Parents



On the night of Jan. 21st, I had a dream  
of a boy about the age of 5 or 6 who  
couldn't find his parents. In the dream  
the boy walked up to strangers and kept  
asking, "Have you seen my parents?"  
Then to the next person, "Do you know  
where my Mommy and Daddy are"? He  
kept walking up to people and looking for  
his parents. Finally, it was revealed to the  
boy both of his parents died in a car acci-  
dent. His father had gotten drunk before  
driving. In the dream, the young boy  
then takes an empty wine flask and

smashes it to the ground. Then I awaken from the dream. How sad a dream. While we know we are not to put credence in dreams. Some of them can cause us to reflect upon our life situations. With the Italian Dinner approaching I thought it would be good to reflect upon some things. Anyone who has helped with the Italian Dinner, will immediately tell you, it's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. Many people (young and old) from our parish volunteer their time, talent and also treasure to make it a success. It's a wonderful event in which we help those in the community and from our parish to enjoy an evening dedicated to Valentine's Day and romance. Our Catholic youth serve tables and bus tables, the Knights of Columbus serve drinks.

Many of the women cook the lasagna and desert and all that makes the meal so delicious. There are those who spend hours decorating the Parish Center and then cleaning up the parish center and taking down the decorations.

Those who do the raffle and auction spend lots of time preparing the items so that people can select items they may have a chance to get. Behind the scenes is someone who has made all of this possible —**Jole Hudson**. For 25 years, the Italian Dinner has grown. Through the years by trial and error and success, it has become a community event many local people enjoy participating. JoLe is very organized and a good task master. She keeps things going and really does much practical work behind the scenes. This will be her last year leading the event and this causes many to ponder, who will lead us and what will we do without our leader? **We thank her for giving her time and talent for 25 years.**

*Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.*

When we look at the Italian Dinner we see stewardship in action. It's a time when we call all pull together to accomplish something beautiful for our parish and community. The Altar Society uses profits to donate to charities, and especially for own parishioners and parish needs.



When our local community think of us, what comes to mind? Before we answer that question, we should think, when we think of Mennonites what do we think of? Well there are two different Mennonite churches in our community. Most people immediately think of service and helping others. Those that wear the little hats and the long dresses, we also think of modesty. Mennonites are known for their honesty and their clean way of living.

Most people in our community think of us Catholics in a very positive manner. We are very generous in helping others financially, we volunteer for community events and at community organizations. When they think of us they think of the Italian Dinner and the time associated with it.

Non-Catholics in western Kansas think of Catholics as those Germans, who can throw the biggest party. Cussing, getting drunk, is part of the lifestyle of many Germans in western Kansas. Back there, non-Catholics will say, *"They can sin all they want Saturday night, and go to confession Sunday before Mass. And they consider themselves righteous."* Many accuse Catholics of hypocrisy. Shouldn't Catholics be looked upon as the Christians who practice virtue, love, forgiveness and helping our neighbor in need. We certainly don't want to have that image at Sacred Heart.

Last year at the Italian Dinner for the most part, we did very well with temperance. There were a few of our own parishioners, who had a little too much. The smiling faces of our young people who serve tables made the atmosphere special. We need to remember we cannot scandalize our young people who come to give their time and talent for a good cause. The previous year was not so good. The youth were shocked to see some of our parishioners and guests drunk. We need to be vigilant in making sure all of us and our guests enjoy our time first and foremost in a godly way, showing the light of Christ to others by what we say and do which reflects upon our good image as Christians. People will want to join our church and become part of something good because they will see Jesus in us and the joy of being Catholic.

Finally, remember the little boy, who couldn't find his parents. In this short dream we see the obligation to practice temperance and help others to do the same. There could be terrible consequences if we don't. A car accident, people hurt or killed. DUI's. May all of us, especially those who are leaders in our parish give good example, by what we say and do. Sacred Heart is truly *a Little Church with a Big Heart* and many in our community know this. Let us not allow our image to be stained, but rather help all to know the *Sweet Life of Heaven* reflected through us.