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Saint Albert Goes to the Ballpark at Benefit Auction

And it's ONE! TWO! THREE! Bids you'll score at the old Auc-tion!!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame is the theme of the 28th Annual Saint Albert Benefit Auction, held this year on Saturday, April 25, at the Mid-America Center. More than 750 people are expected to attend the event.

According to Matt and Lisa Gronstal, chaircouple for the event this year, the auction is one of the school's largest fund-raising efforts. The event will showcase the school's proud tradition of excellence in academics and extracurricular activities.

"The auction is a great way for the community to come together in support of Catholic education in this area," Matt Gronstal said. "It also allows us to say thank you to the many people who have given so much to Saint Albert Schools."

Tickets for the auction are available now at the Saint Albert Business Office at 400 Gleason Avenue. Cost is \$50 each.

The festivities begin with Mass at 4 p.m. at Queen of Apostles Church (3304 4th Avenue). At 5 p.m., doors open at the Mid-America Center and bidding begins on hundreds of silent auction items. Favorites like personalized class gifts and autographed sports memorabilia will be available, as well as a large selection from Steven's Jewelers. The silent auction also will feature a variety of sculptures from Isabel Bloom.

The auction dinner of top sirloin steak and herb grilled chicken breast, roasted potatoes, fresh vegetables, salad and homemade rolls will be served at 6:30 p.m. New York cheesecake and double layer chocolate cake will top off the meal.

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The oral auction follows dinner at 7:30 p.m. and features more than 100 items that will be sold to the highest bidder. Featured items include trips to San Francisco-Napa Valley, Cabo San Lucas and Disney World, a 40" TV and Blue-Ray disc player, patio furniture and fire pit, and one-of-a-kind handmade quilts.

The highlight of the evening will be the drawing for the 2009 Yukon Denali (winner has the option of a \$25,000 cash prize). The drawing will take place at approximately 10:30 p.m. Tickets for the Denali raffle cost \$50 each or 3 for \$100 and will be sold until 9 p.m. the night of the auction.

And new this year – the Auction and raffle drawing will be broadcast live via the school's sports website, www.stalbertsportsfan.com. Website visitors will be able to see the festivities and bid on select sports-themed items throughout the evening.

“The Saint Albert Auction is the largest of its kind in Council Bluffs,” Gronstal said. “Proceeds from the auction allow Saint Albert to offer high quality programs for our students and helps the school keep tuition affordable for families in southwest Iowa. We know we can count on the generosity of the people of Council Bluffs to support this endeavor.”

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Photo/video opportunities are available: If you would like to attend the auction and/or raffle drawing, please call Jenny Van Soelen at (712) 329-9000. The Auction chaircouple, who has spent the past year coordinating the event and providing direction to hundreds of volunteers, also is available for interviews.