

A funeral home director and a priest walk into a stadium



Trinitarian Father Stan DeBoe (CR photo illustration/Robert Thompson)

Charles Hauboldt, a Texas funeral home owner, wants nothing more than to see his Houston Texans bury the Baltimore Ravens' Super Bowl drive at this Sunday's big game at M&T Bank Stadium. He'll get his chance as the winning bidder for a playoff ticket auctioned by a Texas Catholic priest and rabid Ravens' fan.

Hauboldt's high bid of \$2,115 won him the ticket, a flight to Baltimore, lodging and ground transportation - not to mention the chance to sit next to Trinitarian Father Stan DeBoe, the man who put the ticket up for grabs. The money will be used to help purchase a bus for Father DeBoe's parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, Texas.

Father DeBoe, whose parishioners often make use of Hauboldt's funeral home, invited his friend to participate in the auction. The winner had to contend with some last-minute competing bids, but still came out on top.

"Father Stan and I will have a blast," Hauboldt said.

Will there be any smack talk between them?

"I'm sure there will," Hauboldt said with a laugh. "People will know who I'm supporting after the first few plays - and I know he will be on the other side."

As reported yesterday on The Catholic Review's website, Father DeBoe has been a Ravens season ticket holder since the team began playing in 1996. The Pittsburgh native caught Ravens fever while he was ministering in the Baltimore-Washington area and in residence at St. Lawrence, Jessup.

The auction has been a great morale booster for his Texas parish, Father DeBoe said. He received a total of approximately 15 bids.

Father DeBoe, who plans to attend Mass at the Catholic Community at Relay on

game day, said he also received a call from the Baltimore Ravens.

“They said they were glad to know they had a supporter in Texas,” Father DeBoe said. “It was great that with everything they have to do, they took the time to call. I really appreciated it.”

The priest heard from his bishop, who quipped that Father DeBoe’s departure to Baltimore “was the worst-kept secret getaway” he’d ever seen.

Hauboldt, a Lutheran, said he wanted to help Father DeBoe’s church as a way of giving back to the community. He also supports other Victoria-area churches.

“It’s always good to support local community functions or charities,” he said.