

## Mileage Awareness Pilot Project

Driving a car or taking airplane flights are two of the most fossil fuel-use activities that contribute to climate change. In an effort to be more conscious of the miles we drive or fly, we have been challenged to keep a monthly record of those miles so that we can evaluate our driving habits and perhaps cut back on those miles.

Our Laudato Si Action Team would like to invite Sisters and Associates who drive and fly, to keep a simple monthly log of the number of miles driven or flown over the course of a year and if you wish, to make note of the reasons for travel. Air travel is usually considered to be either for 1) business or 2) pleasure. Travel by car usually occurs for these reasons: 1) church, 2) entertainment, 3) family/community need, 4) medical, 5) shopping, 6) work, or 7) volunteering.

One group of sisters is already doing this, using the following simple form which they fill in each month. This is how the pilot group is keeping their record:

- On the first of each month, they record the number on the car's odometer.
- After recording the odometer number for the next month, they subtract the number from odometer reading of the month before, and then
- record the difference in column three (miles traveled) .
- Jot the numbers that indicate the reason for the miles traveled

By doing this simple record, they notice if they are driving more or less miles than the month before and they ask themselves if trips could have been avoided by better planning, by combining errands or by ride sharing. At the end of the year, they will be able to better analyze their driving habits and continue to lessen their driving impact on the environment.

For air travel, those who fly would calculate and record the miles flown for each trip. Kimberly Nichols, author of **Under the Sky We Make**, tells us that just one flight not taken, can do as much good for the planet as four years of recycling, or avoiding single use plastics! Nichols shared in the book, how she cut her air travel by 90% once she realized how costly it was to the environment.

If you would like to participate in the **Mileage Awareness Pilot Project**, go to the Racine Dominican Member Area: <https://www.racinedominicans.org/member-area/> to register. We encourage you to sign up by June 1, 2023.

If you have any questions please contact S. Janet Weyker (262 822-1825 or [jweyker@racinedominicans.org](mailto:jweyker@racinedominicans.org)) or Gail Jacobson (262 253-0438 or [gjacobsen45@gmail.com](mailto:gjacobsen45@gmail.com)) LSAT Mileage Awareness Project Committee.

## Car Miles

**Reasons for Travel:** 1) church, 2) entertainment, 3) family/community need, 4) medical, 5) shopping, 6) work, or 7) volunteering. (Record number rather than writing words)

<b>Type of car</b> _____ <b>MPG:</b> _____			
Month	Odometer #	Miles/month	Reasons for Travel (optional)
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			

**Total miles this year** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total gallons of gas** \_\_\_\_\_

(To determine total gallons of gas, divide the total miles driven by the MPG)

## Flight Miles

**Flights taken**

**Reasons:** Business or pleasure

Date	From city A	To city B	Miles	Reason

**Total number of flights this year:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total miles** \_\_\_\_\_

