

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Encourage and Partner with Lambert-St. Louis International Airport to install Recycling Bins

A congregational commitment to promote earth friendly activities spurred a group of Franciscan Sisters to meet with Richard E. Hrabko, AAE, Director Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, and William Linton, Facilities Manager, to explore ways to partner with the airport to promote recycling.

This group of four Sisters travel together monthly for congregational business in Ohio. Over the course of their travels, they noted that throughout the airport, and particularly when people enter the security areas at Lambert, they have to toss their trash into one container. Every day, thousands of passengers use the airport for travel. The new security protections that are in place require passengers to dispose of containers or products that may be harmful. With little or no opportunity to place items in recycling containers for reprocessing, passengers were forced to throw all of these items into the garbage which eventually ends up in landfills.

After three meetings and a number of phone conversations with airport administration, the Franciscan Sisters partnered with the airport to supply recycling containers at each security check point on the four concourses. Travelers may place plastic bottles, aluminum cans and newspapers in the receptacles and items will be sent to a local recycling center with which the airport had a prior agreement

Sister Regina Strassburger, Minister General for the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and one of the four Sisters who met with airport authorities said, “Mr. Hrabko and Mr. Linton were so receptive and open to our ideas about how to encourage more recycling at the airport. Both gentlemen were happy to collaborate with us.”



Sister Regina added, “A lot of people want to do something ‘green’ but don’t think to do it until someone invites them. That’s what we hope to do in more areas as we continue to promote earth friendly initiatives.”

The Franciscan Sisters, called to be a transforming presence in society through witnessing Gospel values, strive to see the face of Christ in all of creation. Flowing out of the Catholic faith understanding of the sacredness of creation and grounded in the Franciscan values of relationship and compassion, the sisters seek ways to assist others in developing an awareness of the intrinsic value of all of creation and in deepening their connectedness among the earth community. In partnership with others we desire to further earth-friendly initiatives and work towards changing policies as well as personal and organizational practices that disregard the value of earth.