DeKalb to Lena ... 82 miles
Elgin to Polo ... 72 miles
Sycamore to Freeport ... 67 miles
Rock Falls to Rockford ... 65 miles
Nazareth to Bethlehem ... 70 miles
The Rockford Diocese covers 11 counties in northwest Illinois, an area about the size of the state of Connecticut. From communities of Kane County along the Fox River, across the state to Jo Daviess County and the Mississippi River, a 130-mile road trip takes just over a couple hours.

Just when you think that’s a lot of trips, the kids talk about going on our 2,000-year journey of faith. We know that our tabernacles hold the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. We know too that Mary knew intimately that Bethlehem was not to be the home of Jesus. When she said yes to God, she knew in her heart that her precious child would not make His home with her and Joseph. Our Blessed Mother knew the child of the chosen nation of Israel, willingly made a trip to bring benefits beyond their journey and into our lives. So as you put the Christmas music on during your travel for family gatherings, appreciate that the miles covered on that first Christmas trip would probably last as long as only one Christmas album. Joseph and Mary traveled only 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Joseph went (with his wife Mary) from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth to the town of David which is called Bethlehem.

— Luke 2:4

Some of us have spent refl ective, prayerful hours in adoration chapels before the Tabernacle, or pre-shipped presents in the back of the car, or pre-shipped cards, letters, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

— The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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Charitably Speaking
by Patrick Winn
Director Rockford Diocese Catholic Charities

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