

Listen Willingly

Rachel Carson's book helped foster the environmental movement...

My fellow seminarians wrote a skit in which I was to sit in a rocking chair and knit. It was during the time when atomic bombs were being tested. Rumour had it that a fine dirt called *Strontium 90* fell on our pastureland. "To protect our children" I was knitting "anti-radioactive udder covers for Canadian cows". With humour we did our bit in trying to save the Universe.

Last night I listened to an actress, in monologue, tell about the struggles Rachel Carson faced (about the same time as our skit) to alert people to how dangerous it was to use poisonous chemicals, especially DDT. For years she was vilified in a campaign led by the chemical companies.

But her books and magazine articles were read by the public and her scientific astuteness and clarity of thought made sense. While some labeled her a "Joe McCarthy", her public demanded banning-action be taken by the lawmakers. The environment and the lives of our children were in jeopardy. Her work inspired the environmental movement.

To this day "Silent Spring" can still be found in book stores and on private library shelves.

We are encouraged to be on the alert for ways the corporate community can disrupt life on our planet in their pursuit after economic gain.

Made in God's image, we are given the responsibility of caring for our World and all that is in it.

Theologian Thomas Berry writes, "Physical degradation of the natural world is also the degradation of the interior world of the human."

Isaiah said "If you listen willingly, the good of the land you shall eat."

The earth forms not only the raw material of human kind, according to Celtic Saint Hildegard, "but also the substance of the incarnation of God's Son." Treat it with respect.

"I am pessimistic about the human race because it is too ingenious for its own good. Our approach to nature is to beat it to submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of skeptically and dictatorially."

E.B. White

(written by Joyce Sasse, 2010)