



- Home
- News
- Viewpoints
- Spirituality
- Liturgy
- Entertainment
- Calendar
- Sports

Friday, June 22, 2001

Sharing stories of 'God's work' on the air

By Brenda Rees

text only version

Kitty Felde wants you to meet folks you've never heard of before -- but should.

As the now full-time host of KPCC-FM radio's call-in program, "Talk of the City," Felde says she wants the show to be a place where unknown stories of personal and community triumphs can be told; where young people can express their views; where listeners might learn something new and think differently about a hot button topic.



"The way I see my mission is to find those stories about people not covered in the mainstream media," says Felde, who attends both St. Monica Church in Santa Monica and St. Agatha Church in Los Angeles.

"For instance, we brought on the show Nancy Mintie who founded the Inner City Law Center here in Los Angeles," explains Felde. "Nancy works with people on skid row, helping them with housing issues and anything they need. To me, she is doing God's work and I want to tell that story."

Indeed, "Talk of the City" is a place where stories unfold and issues are discussed without the exploitative hype, name-calling or shouting matches that are often found on other talk radio programs.

Felde has often brought her show on the road, broadcasting from community-based locations -- such as a library in South Central -- as a way to connect to her listening audience and talk about issues important to them.

"Talk of the City" also features a special monthly segment "The Book Group" where young people discuss contemporary literature and how it relates to their lives. Young adults also were recently invited on the show to quiz Los Angeles mayoral candidates. "We are trying to give young people a place to hear young voices on the radio," says Felde who vows to keep bringing youth back into the studio as much as possible.

On any given day, Felde's show is a mix of topics and themes, but it reflects Felde and her staff's commitment to quality journalism.

'She's in the world and she can inspire others to live the Gospel through her work. She is a powerful force because of her faith and talent.' -- Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson, on journalist Kitty Felde

"In today's world is it so easy to label people but Kitty's show helps us look beyond the labels," says Father Ken Deasy, pastor at St. Agatha. "We might think one way about a crack mother, but when we hear her story on Kitty's show, we will learn this mother is a sensitive, gentle person who



Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

comments

What do you think?



THE LAST WORD

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

News

- [Thousands celebrate faith at National Catholic Youth Conference](#)
- ['The Lord is coming and we are happy'](#)
- [Simbang Gabi Schedule](#)
- [St. Joseph Center empowers individuals and families](#)
- ['Commitment to Life' weekend to be held Jan. 18-19](#)
- ['Early' deadline nears for Congress 2002](#)
- ['Early' deadline nears for Congress 2002](#)
- [Children receive holiday blessings at Cardinal's party](#)

Past Issues



- [Cardinal meets with Buddhist leaders](#)
- [Regional News](#)

Viewpoints

- [Hope at Christmastime](#)
- [What kind of saints](#)
- [Truth-challenged](#)

Liturgy

- [We are called to wait and watch](#)
- [It is God who comes to us](#)

Spirituality

- [Where is Jesus being born in your presence?](#)
- [Haunting each others' dreams](#)

Sports

- [St. Bonaventure, Paraclete repeat as CIF grid champions](#)
- [Notre Dame hires O'Leary as coach](#)

Entertainment

- [Movie Reviews](#)
- [Christmas videos: What to watch with the family](#)

has a problem. Who are we to judge her?"

"With all the reality TV going on today, Kitty's show is a real one -- it's non-edited, non-scripted and unsuspecting," sums up Father Deasy.

But sometimes that unscripted approach has left Felde improvising on the air while waiting for a late guest to arrive. "You try filling up 15 minutes of air space," she says with a laugh. "That's tough!"

Felde's background makes her a perfect host -- she's a 17-year veteran of public radio and has worked as a radio reporter for KUSC, KLON and KCRW as well as co-hosting KCET's "Life and Times" television show. She's covered everything from the O.J. Simpson trial to the International War Crimes Tribunal for Yugoslavia.

Felde worked as a courthouse commentator for CNN, CBS and CNBC during the Simpson/Goldman murder trial and the Rodney King trial which brought her name recognition and something of a cult following.

But after the high visibility of the O.J. Simpson's case, Felde decided to follow a less celebratory and more emotional story. She spent the next four months on and off in the Netherlands covering the war crimes trial, an assignment that she herself had to raise the money to cover the story.

Indeed, Felde's journalism career is a far cry from that of the girl who grew up in Compton and started out acting in Skippy Peanut Butter and Ford truck commercials. Still, in between producing a 90-minute daily radio show five days a week, Felde manages to find time to write stage plays. She's written a piece about Teddy Roosevelt's daughter, "Alice," and her most recent work, "A Patch of Earth," is based on stories from the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal. She is currently working on a play about the genocide in Rwanda.

Theater plays are important to Felde. For the past eight years she has taught playwriting to inner-city kids through a program called HOLA, the Heart of Los Angeles Youth Theater.

"It's a rewarding experience," Felde says, noting that the student's creativity is impressive and far-reaching considering their home lives. "Kids don't want to admit they are afraid of anything, but when we do character work we ask what is this character's secret fear. It's always about being shot."

Recently, Felde was invited to give a reflection at St. Monica about bringing faith into the work place. "She's in the world and she can inspire others to live the Gospel through her work," says Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson, pastor at St. Monica's. "She is a powerful force because of her faith and talent."



At the press conference announcing the appointment of Auxiliary Bishop Edward Clark, "she had many intelligent questions," continues Msgr. Torgerson. "Her questions were good, in-depth questions that were important. Here is a person who understands our faith and can bring that out in all of us. That's just a wonderful thing."

"Talk of the City" airs Monday through Friday, 1-2:30 p.m. on KPCC (89.3 FM). One hour of the program is re-broadcast every day from 9-10 p.m.

 [click here](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Spirituality](#) | [Sports](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Liturgy](#) | [Viewpoints](#)
[About](#) | [Contact](#) | [Departments](#)

copyright The Tidings Corporation ©2001
Contact us at: info@the-tidings.com