

Shirley seeks world peace – within

By Michael Scharnow
Times Editor

"We Are All One Family, All One People of Earth."

Shirley Catanzaro is hoping a voice on the radio can help heal the world – one person at a time.

That voice just so happens to belong to Catanzaro – who bills herself as a "personal life consultant" – and she is determined to reach out and guide people toward their dreams.

"Peace is my passion," Catanzaro says, who didn't always have peace in her own life.

"And the only way to make it in life is to take your passion and weave it throughout all aspects of your life.

"I believe in the sacredness of the human being as well as knowing you are not alone – whether you call it Spirit or Creator or God or Allah."

These are just some of the messages that Catanzaro shares with listeners of KFHX each Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m.

KFHX is the local AM and Web-based radio station operated in Plaza Fountainside by St. Dominic's Food Bank.

"I hope it gets picked up as something different," Catanzaro says of her radio show.

"We're so intimidated by fear...this is a new voice for something different, how to change from the inside out."

Her radio hour is called "Imagination," and Catanzaro believes her sole purpose is to assist people on a journey "back to their innate, inner source, allowing our inner source to grow, and to open itself to infinite possibilities and choices."

For Catanzaro, her journey started several decades ago when she packed up six children

and left her husband, who was physically abusing her.

"I raised them myself over the next 20 years, and that's how I learned how individuals work," she says. "Each child had his or her own truths, their own innovative view of life, and I realized I wanted to seize the opportunity to listen and learn from each of these unique individuals."

Today she has 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

As she struggled through single parenthood, Catanzaro would find herself writing various truths and reading many works.

She began sharing them with family and friends – and soon enough others were coming to her for assistance.

She became a minister, hypno-therapist, energy practitioner, spiritual counselor, teacher, writer and lecturer.

Catanzaro is a minister with the Madonna Ministry, which bills itself as a "sacramental, mystical and Christ-centered church comprised of a voluntary and free association of individuals..."

"Madonna Ministers are from all walks of life with diversified religious backgrounds and beliefs. What bonds us together is our deep desire to bless and serve the world.

"We are independent ministers providing healing service throughout the world. We are a church with no walls."

She sees herself as a personal coach or "inner tour guide," helping people find that peace within themselves through various techniques.

"I provide ways to dig deeper into yourself and the uniqueness of each person," she says.

"I like people to imagine how they can grow, sharing ways to empower themselves."

Catanzaro says the events of Sept. 11, 2001 served as a rallying point for spreading the concept of peace.

She started producing buttons promoting world peace, many of which got into the hands of volunteers aiding at Ground Zero several years ago.

"It just kept growing, and today there are more than 9,000 of them out here," she says. "One person can make a difference. We are the people we've been waiting for.

"Each one of us needs to become responsible for ourselves and to extend that peace from within."

On her Web site (www.delphian.7gen.com) Catanzaro concludes:

"Our world, especially since the events of September 11, has us questioning our very existence, survival and our future.

"We were brought together on that day, human to human, rather than color, creed or religion. We were a global family, praying and hurting together. Yes, fear spread and we were caught in its throes and once again went to war. Our oneness was shattered temporarily, however fear cannot exist if love prevails.

"Fear entraps the soul, it is full of expectations, it has no respect, fear drives with an iron fist and it takes no responsibility

"For my circle of life I choose love, for to love is to have no expectations of others, to love is to contribute, to be responsible, and have respect for self and others.

"What will we choose as a nation, Love or Fear?"

For her choice, Catanzaro also is helping push for a U.S. Department of Peace, a lobbying effort started by Congressman Dennis Kucinich.



Shirley Catanzaro in her 'medicine wheel' in her backyard.

Backers are hoping to make it a Cabinet post, and the department would focus on non-military peaceful conflict resolutions, prevent violence and promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights.

"We need to create a new paradigm of how we look at things," Catanzaro says. "We need to step back and become observers instead of being a reactor all the time."

And that's her message each day – and on Saturday afternoons on KFHX.

Namaste

I Honor the Place
in You in Which the
Entire Universe Dwells.
I Honor the Place in You
Which is of Love,
of Truth, of Light
and of Peace.

When You are in That Place in
You, and I AM in That Place
in Me, We Are One.