



Chris, what is “fellowship”?

One of the things I love most about The Catholic Community of St Francis is it's truly a community. If you look online, you will see many different definitions of the word community, but perhaps the one that binds our community together is a feeling of **fellowship**.

Celebrating All Saints Day and All Souls Day this week, I wanted to share two examples of fellowship I witnessed.



One of our parishioners and a good friend of mine, Jacob House, recently gave my daughter Kallie Mae, her 1st Rosary. She lit up when she saw it and knew it was from Mr. Jacob, as he always makes her feel so special and calls her, 'Her Royal Highness/Princess Kallie'. He even gifted her the instructions on how to pray the rosary but she insists Mr. Jacob show her as he makes

her feel special calling her Your Royal Highness. Mr. Jacob and so many faithful witnesses in our church, when they see Kallie, make her feel so special and she tells me after we leave, that person was being Jesus to her.

Kallie and I attended the 7 pm All Souls Celebration of Life. I got very emotional and hugged two of my friends, who lost someone to the next stage of life. Both of them said, thank you for your kindness and compassion and thank you for bringing your little girl to Mass. After the Mass, we stayed to venerate our friends, by looking at the pictures/candles and praying before The Blessed Sacrament. Several parishioners got down on their knees and pointed to pictures of people they have lost, and shared with Kallie stories of their loved ones. Again, I got emotional, watching others in such a tough time after having lost a loved one, sharing their family members' legacy, while making my daughter feel special.

Kallie is six years old and asks me regularly, when she can 'eat' Jesus. On both car rides home (Mr. Jacob/All Souls) I shared with her that she was being Jesus for others and they were being Jesus to her.

These are simply two examples of community and fellowship. People helping and walking with each other. Sharing stories. Listening. Loving. Being Jesus for others. Every day, I walk around and watch and experience the ongoing faith formation occurring among friends, families and strangers. These experiences are transformational, lead to conversion, and I'm so grateful to walk with you, who live every day striving to be disciples of Jesus Christ and helping others do the same.