

# REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

## OUR FAMILY ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE

### A Daughter's Sharing:

*"At first I was skeptical to take the FE retreat. I'm an only child, so I thought a whole weekend with just my parents would be so awkward and uncomfortable, not to mention boring! Since I don't have siblings that could relate with me, I knew that a bulk of the weekend would be spent confronting issues, particularly with my mom, and I was really hesitant to bring those issues to the open.*

*But God really works in mysterious ways. When we got to the FE, it was like something inside told me, this is the time to open up. The retreat was the right opportunity to talk with my parents about just anything. It allowed us to bring to light so many of the things left unresolved for a while, causing undue burden in our relationships. It was such a huge relief to forgive and to be forgiven. I can't stress the importance of learning to forgive each other enough. Now my parents have become a lot more understanding and trusting of me, and I've learned to appreciate them so much better.*

*This retreat isn't just one of those where you feel enlightened for a few days and then afterwards things return to old ways. Up to this day, you can still see how much FE improved our relationship and it only continues to do so. I'm so amazed with how our fights have drastically decreased, which sometimes used to be everyday to now practically none. FE was one of the best things we ever did together, and I really hope that other families experience this wonderful retreat as we did."*

### A Mother's Sharing:

*"The FE was one of the best gifts, if not the best, we gave one another as a family. We were there with other families with same desires and hopes: To better understand one another, to forgive and be forgiven, and be able to resolve family conflicts and misunderstandings. That it was held in a congenial and neutral venue; not in the house where parents rule and not in the dorm where the child reigns or any public place for that matter, made it more conducive to an open and loving (yes, loving) discussion of issues. I knew that the Holy Spirit was there guiding us because right from the start, all three of us expressed our desire to know the roots of our frequent conflicts and ways to resolve them. We listened carefully as each family member articulated issues and problems. My heart gave way to understanding making it easy to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. What a heavy load off my heart!*

*No other activity could compare with what we joyfully experienced during that weekend. We were like sponges, soaking up the graces of the Lord and allowing Him to work in us, bringing about the desired changes. I hope that many families will have this same rewarding experience that we had."*