Forgiveness - Discussion Starters

Father Francesco Bressani was the first Italian Jesuit priest and missionary to the Canadian Missions. As he lived his life helping and forgiving others, we ask God to give us the courage to help others in their time of need: classmates, our families, and the people in our school community and neighbourhood. He was a model of a Catholic who showed respect for the dignity and welfare of others. A high school in Woodbridge is name after Fr. Bressani.

Jesus said: "Do to others as you would wish them do to you." (Matthew 7:12)
Help us, God, to remember this Golden Rule, and have the courage to forgive one another and treat each other with respect.

How would you handle a situation with someone who simply refuses to apologize when they are hurtful–one, or who either pretends that what she said/did never happened or who blames the other person as having “made” him/her do “it”?

Do you feel you are able to truly “forgive those who trespass against us?” What makes it easier to forgive and what makes it harder?

Think of a time when you felt that you sought forgiveness but it was not given? How did this make you feel?

Think of a time when you forgave someone for a “wrong doing”. Why did you choose forgiveness and how did this affect your relationship with the person in question?

In the sacrament of reconciliation we are reminded that God’s love is all encompassing. It calls us to re-enter the community from which we have felt alienated through sinful actions. Think of time when you were initially reluctant to forgive but later did. What was that like for you?