

# A Quick Look at...

## TRANSITIONING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS TO COLLEGE

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from May 11, 2021

### Key Points from Presentation with Laura LaClair:

- Not every student needs to be actively involved in their campus ministry. Being a good Catholic doesn't require a youth to join CCM. If they don't want to be a part of it, don't push them. Do ask what their strategy is for finding good friends.
- 5 Tips for Preparing Seniors for College:
  - Make sure your ministry is looking outside of its own existence.
    - ◆ Do a self-evaluation—do your teens know how to pray by themselves, how to go to Mass, how to read the Bible, how to make good friends?
  - Invite local campus ministers to come and help with your youth group from time to time or to give a talk.
  - When having conversations with graduating seniors, be honest and don't sugar-coat; let them know college is hard.
  - Treat your graduating seniors like adults.
    - ◆ Help them take responsibility for their own faith and their own friendships. Teach them to think on a deep level.
  - Check in with college students over college breaks, when they are back in town, or sporadically at other times.
- Remember—it is NOT your responsibility to “keep” kids Catholic, so do not take that burden on yourself. Be an encouraging witness and trust!

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES

#### To Get in Touch with Campus Ministry

- Head to the Office for Evangelization website to find the colleges that are closest to you or to find the colleges your teens are going to: <https://evangelizerichmond.org/campus-ministry/find-a-campus/>

#### For Teens

- “Moving Forward: Staying Catholic in College” book, by Life Teen: <https://www.amazon.com/Moving-Forward-Staying-Catholic-College/dp/0985357525>
- “How I Stayed Catholic at Harvard: 40 Tips for Faithful College Students” book, by Aurora Griffin: <https://www.amazon.com/How-Stayed-Catholic-Harvard-Faithful/dp/1621641287>

### - Q&A about Preparing High School Seniors for College -

1. **My education was different than most, and I did not have the typical college experience that most have. How do I encourage them and relate to them?** They do not need someone to relate to them as much as they need someone to be there for them to listen. They need encouragement to go to Mass that first weekend of college, and you do not need to have had that experience in order to support them in it. They need a healthy relationship with you as their youth minister, not a friend who is going through the same things.
  - **Can you clarify how to treat them like an adult but also recognize that they are still not fully grown? I want to balance giving them advice with letting them make their own mistakes.** When students get frustrated with their parents, it is usually when they feel like they aren't being taken seriously. They don't want to be forced into something because they have free will. It is important for them to hear that we understand where they are coming from, even though we or their parents might disagree. They need to know they are loved no matter what.



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