

ROW 11/28/18

In talking with high school classes, if you could talk with only one grade, which grade would be the most fruitful to focus on?

Archdiocese of Washington

We have found it most fruitful to speak with the Junior Class

Diocese of Davenport

For our diocese, we usually go by the rule of 11s. 11 year olds and 11th grade are usually the most effective times to encourage thinking about vocations. 11th grade also gives high schoolers time to discern before it's time to apply to seminary after high school.

Diocese of Palm Beach

The junior year is the most optimal. Hopefully they are a little more mature than they were in the previous two grades and haven't entered into senior mode. They are just starting to look forward and hopefully still have an openness to the future.

Diocese of San Francisco

I'd say Juniors in the Spring Semester or seniors in the Fall semester.

Diocese of Harrisburg

I read somewhere that grades 7 and 11 are the best to hit because they're generally thinking more about what they are going to be doing with their life (12th they usually already applied to colleges and are in cruising mode).

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

I was a high school chaplain before being named VD. I found that my interaction and support of freshman and juniors were the best. Seniors already have a plan and sophomore's aren't as open to their future just yet. I hope that helps!

Diocese of Cleveland

The short answer is: juniors in high school.

Seniors, at least by this time of the academic year, have already been focusing highly on where they will land after high school. To introduce the seminary now, at this time in the year, can often times prove to be an uphill battle except for only the most open to discernment. Even then, it takes a lot of intense time to be able to see if there is momentum building within their minds and hearts from the Holy Spirit. Also, communication might be stunted quickly once they leave for school, Or when they receive their next acceptance letter.

Juniors often times are, according to statistics, already thinking on the level of the mind and the heart and considering how they will have a more fulfilled life. Life is not just about doing well in sports or completing the tasks of classes, but there is some vision beyond high school, there is light already at the end of the tunnel.

I would suggest that if you are putting together a Melchizedek group, shoot for sophomores and juniors in high school. That goes for high schools, as well as parishes that might have a good number of guys in that age range.

Diocese of Fargo

Juniors. Definitely juniors. Seniors have already made commitments - at least mentally - what they want to do after graduation. Juniors still open to discernment choices. Sophomores or earlier are not thinking this far out yet.

Archdiocese of Mobile

Juniors. They are thinking about the future. Not totally decided yet. Seniors are already checked out for the most part

Diocese of Joliet

I think I would reach out to the sophomore class