

Recently, three different people have asked me the question: “Why is my child who is entering college in less than two months being so obnoxious?”

The summer after graduation is a real low point for the student about to enter college. The previous semester was a frenzy of activity and anticipation. There were final college plans, special senior activities and then graduation. Following that hectic schedule are three long months of nothing.

Well, almost nothing—there is anxiety. Few new graduates would admit to being scared, but the unknown is always a little scary. They are also facing the somewhat disturbing fact that they might actually miss those younger siblings, their parents and the security of their home.

At the same time, parents are feeling their own anxieties. They are thinking about whether their child will be okay away from home. They are wondering if they have given their child all the training that she will need to manage her own life. They are thinking about several years of big expenses, big decisions and their own loneliness for the child who is away at college.

The best thing that parents and the new graduate can do is to talk. Once both parent and child have admitted that they are feeling some anxiety about the unknown, they can reach a compromise that will make the next few weeks enjoyable.

Yes, parents should give their child a little more freedom in the months following graduation. Remember that they will have all the freedom in the world in less than two months. It would be good to have a chance to practice handling freedom while still at home.

The young person who is absolutely dying for freedom should use this short time to show her parents that she can responsibly handle her life. After all, she will want her parents in her corner, both emotionally and financially, while she is in college.

Eighteen years are given to parents to help their children put on the “whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11). Trust that the training has been

successful in most areas and that God's grace will suffice where the training was lacking. Now, relax, hug each other and enjoy these last weeks together.