

Kaylah Hill
Service learning
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Reflection paper

bishop raymond rivera

Bishop Raymond Rivera is an attribute to helping people and showing them the path of god. Throughout his time he has taught ministry, pastor, preacher and ect. He has achieved a lot in these fields, and to have a vast majority of acknowledgement for these sections is very important, because he can reach different groups of people.

Growing up Rivera was surrounded by a lot of italians and being that he was latino it did not mix as much. He thought he would be seen as an outcast because latinos and Italians don't get along, but they welcomed him into their group as if he was in a safe space. He got nicknames from them and rode along with them on their excursions. I believe this to be why he takes so much pride in being diverse in his work area so that he can make people feel welcomed no matter what they preach or how they preach it, as long as it's the word of god. His church setting is in the Bronx which is one of the most rural and violent boroughs in New York City. I believe the

location of your workplace is very important because you can reach out to a complexity of people, and get your message across to more people. People tend to not ask for help unless they are asked if they are indeed of it. At the church he has said that there have been many people that came in and wanted to cleanse their soul, no matter what they were doing outside of church, once they got there all the sins went away. He said there would be some days people put guns in the offering basket to change their lives around and surrender to doing good deeds. Him and his church continue to inspire those around them, that it's never too late to change your life around. You don't normally see people that like to "run the streets" worshiping god but lucky enough there are people like Bishop Rivera to help, where the help is wanted.

An inspiring story he shared with us was this one girl who came to church, very young but abundantly pregnant. A lot of people said she was a disgrace for showing up at such a young age pregnant. The service told Bishop Rivera to let her go with the elderly's so that she does not rub off her foolish ways to other people or redirect their attention. Bishop Rivera was not having this scrutiny, he agreed everyone should be treated equally under the house of god. She later on went onto having the baby and becoming a pastor at a church, none of this would have been possible if

she was not given the chance to be seen as equal and be with the rest of the people who came to worship. Why shut out someone who has no idea what to do with their life, let alone a kid, being that their a kid. When you push someone away they tend to feel not welcomed and furthermore going somewhere else to feel welcomed and that might become a bad space for them. Throughout this lecture I learned the importance of diversity, especially in this day in age. It is good to make people feel welcomed and ask them for help or if they're in need of help, before the wrong type of company tries to surround them.