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Religion Declining

Oscar Pascual

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Religion Declining

Social Issue/Issue Research

As of today, compared to previous generations there are fewer people going to church or are affiliated with a religion that day practice daily. During my volunteering in my service site, where it was my job to basically teach, or enlighten youths from a Catholic family and show them what their religion means to them and its importance, my fellow teachers and I face the challenge of basically grabbing their interest even worst their attention to the topic.

Current and Ideal State of Issue

70.6 percent of American adults (173 million) say they are Christian, but that's a drop of at least 5 million adults or 8 percentage points, since 2007. This decline is mostly associated with young adults, because it is a more widespread problem and the country is becoming less religious.

Service Site Approach to Issue

My service site St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, tackle this problem by volunteering my time at the church every Sunday to help try and teach youths, and help them understand how important their religion really is. I approach this issue by volunteering my time at the church every Sunday and during my volunteering at my service site, it was my job to basically teach, or enlighten youths from a Catholic family and show them what their religion means to them and its importance. My expectations for going in this program was to be able to teach youths and learn from it as well, and so far, every time I end the day doing this i have this sense of completion where I did something good or rewarding for myself, that is why even though it is sometimes difficult at the end of the day I believe there are more ups than downs.

Pros

• I learn more about my religion through teaching
• I have the opportunity to teach and share my belief to youths
• I gain more teaching experience
• I get to serve my community
• I feel a sense of accomplishment

Cons

• I sometimes feel my patience waning
• I sometimes feel my time is wasted when no one is paying attention

Expectations

My expectations for going in this program was to be able to teach youths and learn from it, and so far, even though I am only three months in I believe I am meeting this expectation. For starters, I have been given the opportunity to teach others and more importantly through teaching I get to learn and participate in my religion and I continue to learn from it the more I volunteer and teach.

Service Learning Experience

During this three months, I was blessed to be able to be given the opportunity to teach youths and help them understand and realize the importance of their religion. The first ever experience I had with them was when we spent three days in the mountains, where we truly got to know each other and what they are trying to learn and get out this program. We also had the opportunity to talk about life and some challenges we are facing right now that could be potentially hindering us from trying to learn about our religion, or get close to God. I know my service experience is a bit different from others where other people help others out physically, while mine is more spiritually, but I still believe that helping others spiritually is still as important.

Semester Reflection

Serving in the service site multiple times increased my knowledge about my religion tremendously, which was great because I came in to the service to help others and also help myself learn more about my religion, and by devoting my time every Sunday I am blessed to be able to learn through my fellow teachers teachings and also on some occasions from the youths as well, it gave me a better understanding, because I was once in their shoes going through this program, and now that I have the teaching side perspective of it I get to see how difficult it was for the teachers to teach us those times, but although difficult, it is still rewarding at least for me, because, every time I end the day doing this I have this sense of completion where I did something good or rewarding for myself, that is why even though it is sometimes difficult at the end of the day I believe there are more ups than downs.

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Difference Making and Future

Differences in My Own Views

I don’t think in my views changed all that much, one thing for sure is that although there are difficulties trying to inspire the youths and have them see how great and important their religion can be, I still love what I do because I also learn through it and it makes me better at understanding how others view our religion.

Differences I Made for the Site

I believe in its own way my service made a difference in the site itself because during our outing in the mountains I was able to at least make a difference and help the youths through my personal experience how important religion really is and what it can do for them. As for what I have learned through this experience, I learned that the social issue at hand is a difficult one to solve because you can inspire and teach as much as you want, but it is still up to the individual or youth whether they will take it to heart or apply what they learn, but I still believe my fellow volunteers and I can make a difference one step at a time.

Personal/Professional Learning

During my service I learned how to be patient and most importantly the difficulty of trying to teach, this experience made me appreciate my teachers back in high school and their extreme patience with us, it gave me a bit of an insight of how difficult teaching could be. Even so I learned many valuable experiences and teaching and patience being the best once I have experienced.

Future Change, Effort, and Outcomes

One thing I would want to change in my service site would be to stay away from a classroom setting and have it more interactive learning, because this way the youths will be more engaged and involved and I believe will be more interested to participate and learn.