

The Mayor's Corner

May 5, 2017

Honesty More than an annual celebration

Did you know that Sunday, April 30 was National Honesty Day? Did you even know there was such a holiday? Neither did I, until recently.

In 1991; while doing research for a book on how lies have had an effect on history, M. Hirsh Goldberg decided to invent a holiday promoting honesty. Goldberg had been a press secretary to Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, Mayor of Baltimore, and Harry R. Hughes, Governor of Maryland. He saw firsthand that honesty and government are sometimes mutually exclusive. (Some might say that the same can be said about honesty and politics.) He chose April 30 as the date in order to offset April Fool's Day, which celebrates being untruthful (albeit in jest) and in commemoration of George Washington's first inauguration.

Honesty Day promotes honesty in government, politics, relationships, etc. It calls for answering all questions you are asked on that day with complete honesty.

Query: Do we really need a holiday to promote honesty? Shouldn't honesty be a way of life; thus celebrated 365 days a year?

The answer to that last question is yes; however, we all know that "what should be" and "what is" are too often not the same. For some, honesty is only used when convenient, or it's to their advantage.

Earlier I referred to the perception that honesty and politics are mutually exclusive. Lies, twisting or taking out of context what someone says, mudslinging, and plagiarism; to name a few, have turned that perception into reality.

That perception has to be corrected. How? Honestly, it's going to take more than words or a national holiday.

Let me again ask: Shouldn't honesty be a way of life; thus celebrated 365 days a year?

To quote Fr. Kevin Kelly, a former curate at St. Rose of Lima: "Just something to think about."

Greg