

On #Be Golden

April 5, 2019

The Golden Rule is almost as old as humanity, itself! The Sacred Texts of many religions have, for thousands of years, offered the Golden Rule, or some close variation of it. Basically, it says to do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

The #BeGolden campaign is a rallying cry for our community to unite under the Golden Rule and to remember to practice it every day, especially with those who are immigrants. It's a message of unity, civility, and empathy. We want to remind people that this isn't a political or legal issue, it's not a Catholic or Protestant, Jewish or Islamic, Hindu or Buddhist issue. It's not an atheist or agnostic issue. It's a human issue! It's about seeing another person as someone who deserves honesty, respect, and dignity. It means being honest, true, and compassionate in the face of another's suffering or plight.

The Golden Rule does not mean that we will always agree with one another. In fact, sometimes we will disagree with each other strongly. But it does mean that even when I disagree with someone, I can do so in a way that is respectful, that builds up common regard, and which leaves open the possibilities for future encounters.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called the human race to create a "culture of encounter." This is a culture where people treat one

another with high regard, and where there is an openness to the mystery of each person. It also means that I cannot see the hunger, thirst, or illness of another human being and be unmoved by it!

No! I must respond in some positive way. I must think to myself that if I were in need that someone would take notice, someone would care!

This is the compassion that is at the heart of the Golden Rule. So, dear friends and fellow citizens of San Antonio, let us Be Golden in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds!