

Happy Monday to all,

On this date, October 27, 1975 the magazine covers of both Time ("Rock's New Sensation") and Newsweek ("Making of a Rock Star") featured rock singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen after the release of his breakthrough album "Born to Run". Today, fifty years later, Bruce Springsteen is still making headlines with the June release of "Tracks II" album and the biographical movie, "Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere" .

Springsteen is known for his engagement with social justice, which he expresses through his music and activism. He often writes about working-class struggles, economic inequality, and disillusionment with the American dream. He actively supports social justice causes through appearances and statements, advocating for the dignity of work and economic equality.

"Born in the U.S.A." (1984) became one of Springsteen's most famously misinterpreted tracks. Despite its rousing chorus, the song is a protest lamenting the poor treatment of Vietnam veterans who returned home to a country that had turned its back on them. The lyrics tell the story of a Vietnam War veteran struggling to find his place in post-war America, highlighting the disillusionment and neglect faced by many veterans, again, not too dissimilar from many of the veterans of today returning home from the various wars the country has involved itself in for decades.

Catholic Social Teaching offers timeless wisdom and guidance for each one of us to live a life rooted in truth, justice, and charity. Grounded in the teachings of Jesus, Catholic Social Teaching provides guidance for responding to social, economic, and political challenges with a heart oriented toward the common good. While these teachings are profound, they are not confined to academic discussions—they can and should be lived out in our everyday lives.

Living out Catholic Social Teaching doesn't always require grand gestures—it's often the small, unnoticed actions that have the greatest impact. As Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." When we take small, intentional steps toward the common good—whether by caring for the poor, protecting creation, or seeking justice—we become, in the words of Pope Francis, "instruments of hope and transformation."

Becoming involved in the work that our diocesan Catholic Charities provides, through your financial support and involvement in one or more of the activities offered through our local organization, is an easy and extraordinarily effective way to live out lives of charity and justice toward others-particularly the poor and marginalized.

Catholic Charities offers a variety of services in which to participate. These include supportive services for veterans and their families, serving homeless veterans- and those at risk of becoming homeless- by providing wrap-around supportive services such as: rental assistance, utility payments, household items, child care, transportation, medical/mental health referrals, affordable health care, housing navigation, money management, food/nutrition assistance and much more.

Additionally Catholic Charities assists seniors through services such as in-home assistance, transition care for those released from acute care, respite care, personal care, abuse prevention and transportation. They also offer immigration assistance, healthcare access, nutritional services, disaster relief and environmental protection.

Even without the talent and the platform of a Bruce Springsteen, each one of us is gifted by God in a manner that allows us to provide much needed care, compassion and assistance to those all around us who are in needs...doing one small thing with great love.

Blessings,

Deacon Mike