

## *There must be a path here*

vincent-life-lessons-series-facebook

Have you ever wondered about the path you are on?

I have often told the story about the time I really made vows some 35 years after I made that commitment the first time.

But it is only relatively recently that I made the connection with Vincent's life. J Patrick Murphy's thumbnail reflection in his soon to be released book, *Mister Vincent*, helped me do just that.

Vincent spent 25 years finding himself and becoming free of false starts and his own greed.

**Lesson: It is okay to get a little lost on the way to finding yourself.**

It was 1993, some 35 years after I pronounced vows for the first time. Then I was relatively successful as the Chair of Department of Theology. But after a severe auto accident I lay for two weeks in the intensive care unit of a major trauma center on Long island. I do not remember much but what I do remember so clearly is the longing to be transferred to the local Catholic hospital where they would take care of "Father"!

And then it hit me. I wanted the trappings of being cared for in a Catholic hospital. But those who are poor, especially in war-torn countries, often don't have the luxury of even minimal hospital care of bandages or pain killers.

I remember laying there beginning to have moments of clarity and thinking who am I to demand such care. I don't remember whether it was day 6 or 10. But I do remember clearly the moment I made a powerful admission ... I was not strong enough to be a Vincentian.

At that moment, I understood so clearly how much "clerical privilege" had taken hold of me.

It is an irony that I sit at this keyboard today almost 25 years later precisely because I was taken to a major trauma care center rather than to the Catholic hospital.

Since then I have considered that moment to be the real moment of committing myself to serving those who were poor.

And now I wonder about that moment when Vincent woke up to what he was being called to.

Interestingly enough it was while I was convalescing that I woke up to the ministry I have found life-giving for the last two decades... using the tools of digital communications to form, strengthen and unite those who feel called to serve those who are less fortunate.

### **Questions**

- **Are there any events that in retrospect changed your life?**
- **Have there been times when you realized how much good came out of something that seemed so bad at the time?**
- **What might be the unconscious "privileges" that you are clinging to?**

