



A Sacred Encounter: Compassionate Communication

The parable of the Good Samaritan has been sitting on my heart since a personal encounter with a young man I had the privilege of meeting some time ago:

I was called to the ER as a young man was distraught and expressed the desire to speak with someone from the Spiritual Care Department. I was asked to speak to him. I made my way to the Imaging Department where I met Vincent (not real name). As it turns out Vincent was deaf. Vincent did not understand what people were asking of him especially as we were wearing masks. I removed my mask and began to explain to Vincent what was needed and why so that we could find out the cause of his abdominal pain. Once he understood, he was very cooperative.

I brought Vincent back to the ER and waited with him until the test results came back. We spent two hours talking; him writing on his computer and me responding through the use of his phone. Whenever people approached him wearing masks he did not understand them but once Vincent understood what was needed, he was OK.

After his discharge, I spent some time with him and made sure that he had a way back home. We took a picture together and departed our ways. Had I been too busy for him, I too would have missed Jesus present to me in this encounter with Vincent. It was a sacred moment.

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