

**First Correspondence with Bishop Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut**

**itdouglas@ctdiocese.org;**

**To: canon@rtnolan.com**

**Sent: Fri Jun 04, 2010**

**Re: Personal from Canon Nolan in FL**

**Dear Dick:**

**Thank you for this wonderful update on your and Bob's life together. God bless both of you.**

**I'll let you know if I am ever in your neighborhood. It would be great to meet.**

**Faithfully,**

**Ian**

**----- Original Message -----**

**From: Richard Nolan <[canon@rtnolan.com](mailto:canon@rtnolan.com)>**

**To: Ian T. Douglas**

**Sent: Fri Jun 04 10:28:30 2010**

**Subject: Personal from Canon Nolan in FL**

**Dear Bishop Ian,**

**Your recent birthday card for 5/30 (age 73) is much appreciated.**

**I so regret that we shall probably never meet. Since last December my partner/spouse Bob Pingpank and I have lived very happily at the independent level in a Pompano Beach, inclusive, independent/secular "continuing care retirement community" oddly named "John Knox Village."**

**We traveled to our 50th class reunion at Trinity College last June and were married in the Chapel by a UCC minister (on the advice of our attorney here for the sake of having an additional persuasive though not legal document further indicating that we are not strangers to each other). Originally utilitarian, the service was quite moving - even after 53 years as partners. However, after the 2-week trip, it took me a month to recover (diabetes, mobility issues, etc.). We'll limit our future trips to southeast Florida.**

**I'm no longer functioning liturgically and have not renewed my license to officiate here - although Bishop Frade has been a most generous host. Low sugar attacks occasionally develop at the darndest times!**

**I continue as a "retired honorary canon" of Christ Church Cathedral, and the rector of the parish where we have worshipped for a number of years (St. Andrew's, Lake Worth - almost an hour's drive) has graciously continued me as "Retired Priest-In-Residence." I suggested that he insert "Invisible"**

somewhere in that designation!)

Unfortunately, we are currently on a sort of church "sabbatical." Cradle Episcopalians, we both were nurtured in the wonderful, now defunct, New England churches (like Waltham, MA, and Thomaston & Bantam, CT) when worship was far less elaborate ceremonially. We are repulsed by neighboring parishes and clergy here who seem to think, for example, that a circularly swung incense pot adds to the awesome reverence due the Creator - plus their homophobia. Nonetheless, we have wonderful memories of corporate worship, and we "break bread" in our apartment - in too small a congregation of two.

In September Bob and I will celebrate 55 years together. Our life together has always come first in our lives - blended with our shared baptismal identity and vocation. For a good while longer, we hope to share life together on this planet. And, we're even hopeful re afterwards - in a "low church" celestial neighborhood.

Enough (too many) words from me!

If you're ever in the southeast Florida area and have a moment for a "hello," we'd be pleased to meet you wherever.

Faithfully,

Dick Nolan

[www.nolan-pingpank.com](http://www.nolan-pingpank.com)

[www.philosophy-religion.org](http://www.philosophy-religion.org)