



from
**RICHARD T. NOLAN and
ROBERT C. PINGPANK!**

*Our entire 2010 journal with new
pictures is posted at nolan-pingpank.com/.*

The first year in our John Knox Village home has been excellent! Within the six-year-old *Heritage Tower* our (uppermost, 10th floor) apartment provides via oversized windows an unobstructed view eight miles southward to downtown Fort Lauderdale - and beyond. Living in the 64-acre, inclusive, independent, 1000-resident, "continuing care retirement community" offers whatever lifetime assistance we might need - currently at the *independent* level. In short, we are living much as we have for decades, but in a contemporary, hotel-like home with comprehensive healthcare and other amenities - akin to a "Club Med" for seniors (ages 62+)!

Delightful visits from family and friends from the northeast and our own locale were most welcomed throughout the year. Village records indicate that from December 2009 through November 2010 we hosted forty-nine luncheon guests in the very pleasant dining room - with its superb cuisine.

Our 73rd birthdays were celebrated in May. Moreover, in June we marked the first anniversary of our legal, Connecticut marriage plus in September our 55th anniversary as a couple. To commemorate our families and our special 2010 days, we contributed a park bench to the Village's grounds (picture over). Its tranquil spot offers a view of one of two campus lakes (registered wildlife sanctuaries) with their many beautiful birds - varieties of swans, geese, ducks, herons and egrets, ibis, and migrating fowl.

Annual regional events related to some of our schools and various organizations were very enjoyable, as were area social activities. Excursions beyond Broward County were rare. In November we traveled to St. Andrew's, Lake Worth, where Rich preached and Bob served as a eucharistic minister for an *Integrity-Palm Beach* gathering. The next weekend we participated on a *Multicultural Film Festival* panel at Palm Beach State College. Thanksgiving was at the home of longtime friends Tony and Arthur in their Fort Lauderdale home with a number of others.

With regard to health, the year is concluding very well. New doctors have had a fresh look at us, found nothing new, and confirmed that we are on very reasonable levels. Some specific limitations do continue for Rich, but they are manageable within our environs.

Bob continues to learn Spanish via Rosetta Stone; he keeps up with the latest automotive news - a longtime hobby - and relishes total freedom from four decades of a homeowner's maintenance responsibilities. Rich adds to our websites (including the Scrapbook and philosophy-religion.org), which have garnered a very satisfying 1,035,081 hits during the past twelve months. Since 1979 he has been one of three coauthors of *Living Issues In Philosophy* - in its 9th edition and 64th year, currently with Oxford University Press. (Both of Rich's coauthors have died.)

We remain ever thankful for our family life together, and we trust fully in God's grace and ultimate sovereignty. However, not all is cheery! Because of perverse, political processes resulting in wide-ranging Congressional dysfunction, we find it disheartening to have only minimal confidence in contemporary U.S.A. governance - not that any other nation is better! We do not feel apathetic, but betrayed by the many legislators who twist fundamental democratic procedures. We vote as Independents - but too often for the lesser (or least) of evils!

Predictably, but contradictory to its noble ideals and some ongoing, positive achievements, our unique land embraces some powerful idols and toxic mores (e.g., greed, celebrity, power, deception, vindictiveness, self-centeredness, willful ignorance, and violence) which reward their respective devotees with forms of enslavement, usually the opposite of whatever any might promise. The Creator must be saddened by chronic, self-defeating misuses of the divine gift of human freedom. Because the U.S.A. is always "a work in progress," we have hope that during our lifetimes we shall regain genuine confidence in, and optimism for, our country's well-being!

Despite our politically rooted discouragements, we're not downhearted; we believe that humanity has been offered radiant *Light* that can transform all sorts of relationships throughout the planet. We need only to choose repeatedly to collaborate gracefully with God's purposes for humankind. Let us hope that some specific effects of more *Light* will be evident during 2011 within our own lives, nationally, even globally!



among the villas in view of our "Heritage Tower"



partial night view from the apartment



10th floor view from the living room's bay windows

RICHARD T. NOLAN & ROBERT C. PINGPANK
 (age 73 - Broward County residents)
 Celebrating 55 Years Together - September 1955 - September 2010
 Life as a couple began in Connecticut as college freshmen.
 Married legally in Connecticut June, 2009,
 in the Trinity College Chapel during their 50th Class Reunion.
 View their Scrapbook with their biography
 (written by a conventional friend/grandmother) at
www.nolan-pingpank.com.

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel



Christmas 2010



The Nolan-Pingpank lakeside bench