

# HONDURAS THIS WEEK

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## Presidential Elections

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Letters to the Editor

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## Richard T. Nolan

Richard Thomas Nolan



American scholar of religious studies, professor, and clergyman

**Born** May 30, 1937 (age 72)  
Waltham, MA

**Education** Trinity College (CT)  
The Hartford Seminary  
Yale University  
New York University

**Religious beliefs** Episcopalian

The Rev. Dr. Richard Thomas Nolan (born May 30, 1937, [Waltham, MA](#)) is a [canon](#) of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in [Hartford, Connecticut](#) and a former college professor of [philosophy](#) and [religious studies](#). He is the editor/coauthor of *The Diaconate Now* (Corpus-World, 1968), and coauthor of *Living Issues In Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 1995), *Living Issues in Ethics* (Wadsworth 1982 and iUniverse 2000), and *Soul Mates: More than Partners* (online, 2004). Nolan is also the editor of a non-commercial, educational website on philosophy and religion.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Education and professional career

Richard Nolan is a 1954 alumnus of the [Boston Latin School](#); he then enrolled at The [Tabor Academy](#) in [Marion, MA](#). Nolan received his bachelor's degree from [Trinity College](#) in 1960. Following his graduation from Trinity, Nolan continued his studies in divinity at [Hartford Seminary](#), receiving his Masters in Divinity in 1963.<sup>[2]</sup> During his time at Hartford Seminary, he also held his first position as an instructor in [Latin](#) and [English](#) at [Watkinson School](#) in [Hartford, CT](#).<sup>[2]</sup> Shortly after completing his studies at Hartford, he was ordained a deacon at Christ Church in June 1963 in [Waltham, MA](#).<sup>[3]</sup> He was ordained a priest in June 1965 at St. John's, in [Arlington, MA](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

Nolan received his master's in Religion from the [Yale University Divinity School](#) in 1967; during his studies, he was also an instructor in math and religion, and associate chaplain at the [Cheshire Academy](#) from 1965-1967.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1967 Nolan accepted a position as an instructor of philosophy and education at the Hartford Seminary Foundation,<sup>[5]</sup> and in 1968 was promoted to the position of Assistant Dean.<sup>[6]</sup>

Nolan continued to expand his responsibilities; in 1969 he accepted a position as an instructor at the Mattatuck Community College in Waterbury, CT.<sup>[7]</sup> Meanwhile, Nolan was completing his Ph.D. studies at [New York University](#), where he was granted a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion in 1973. Nolan remained an instructor at Mattatuck for many years, becoming an associate professor in 1974, and a full professor of philosophy and social sciences in 1978. He held his post at Mattatuck until 1992.<sup>[2]</sup> In the intervening years, Dr. Nolan also held adjunct and/or visiting professor positions at [Trinity College](#), [Long Island University](#), the [University of Miami](#), [St. Joseph College](#), [Pace University](#), and many others.<sup>[4]</sup> Nolan continued teaching at the [University of Connecticut](#), Hartford Graduate Center, and [Central Connecticut State University](#) until he retired in 1994<sup>[4]</sup>. Despite retirement, he continued to teach part time at [Broward Community College](#), [Barry University](#), [Florida Atlantic University](#), and [Palm Beach Community College](#) as recently as 2002.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1992, Nolan was named a retired honorary canon for life at Christ Church Cathedral in [Hartford, CT](#).<sup>[8]</sup> He also holds posts as pastor emeritus for St. Paul's Parish, in Bantam, CT (since 1988),<sup>[4]</sup> member of the society of regents at Cathedral Church St. John the Divine (since 2002), retired priest-in-residence at St. Andrew's Church in [Lake Worth, FL](#) (since 2002),<sup>[4]</sup> and professor emeritus at Mattatuck Community College, in [Waterbury, CT](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

Nolan has been the author and editor on numerous books, including *The Diaconate Now* (Corpus-World, 1968), *Living Issues in Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 1995), and *Living Issues in Ethics* (Wadsworth 1982 and iUniverse 2000). His books have been translated into several languages, including [Indonesian](#) and [Chinese](#). Since 2000, Nolan has been the editor of the website [philosophy-religion.org](#), a reference on philosophy and religion topics and papers, used internationally<sup>[9][10]</sup> and recommended by [Yale University](#)<sup>[11]</sup> and several other colleges and universities in the [United States](#) and beyond.

## Personal life

While attending [Trinity College \(Connecticut\)](#) in 1955, Nolan met his life partner, Robert C. Pingpank.<sup>[12]</sup> Throughout their lives, they were forced to hide their relationship due to the potential of losing their jobs.<sup>[13]</sup> During a career change for both in 1967, the couple finally moved in together into a unique two-family house designed by Pingpank, so that they could live together, yet maintain separate addresses and phones.<sup>[14]</sup> This allowed them to maintain their relationship while avoiding challenges to their careers; they lived in this home until their retirement in 1994, when they moved to Florida. The couple has been profiled

in the The LGBT Religious Archives Network<sup>[12]</sup>, and the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (a recently established center of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California).

Richard Nolan and Robert Pingpank were married legally at age 72 on June 4, 2009, in the Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, CT.<sup>[8]</sup> Nolan and Pingpank reside in Pompano Beach, FL, and are active in Lambda Legal, Compass of West Palm Beach, and Integrity Palm Beach.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Works

- ✦ *The Significance of the Religious Thought of Edmond La B. Cherbonnier for a Basic Objective for Religious Education*, Dissertation, New York University, 1973.
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- ✦ Nolan, Richard T.; Pingpank, Robert (2004). "Soul Mates: More Than Partners". <http://philosophy-religion.org/soulmates/>.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>^</sup> [www.philosophy-religion.org](http://www.philosophy-religion.org).
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup> *Contemporary Authors New Revision Series*. Gale Cengage. 2007. ISBN 078767916X.
- <sup>3</sup> <sup>^</sup> "Rev. Nolan Ordained At Christ Church". Waltham News Tribune. June 1963. p. 16.
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- <sup>9</sup> <sup>^</sup> "Internet Guide to Religion". Wabash College. [http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result\\_browse.aspx?topic=648&pid=626](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result_browse.aspx?topic=648&pid=626). Retrieved 8 July 2009.
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- <sup>11</sup> <sup>^</sup> "Selected Internet Sites and Electronic Texts". Yale University Divinity School Library. <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/electext.htm>. Retrieved 8 July 2009.
- <sup>12</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> "Profile - Canon Richard T. Nolan & Robert C. Pingpank". LGBT Religious Archives Network. <http://www.lgbtran.org/Profile.aspx?ID=151>. Retrieved 8 July 2009.
- <sup>13</sup> <sup>^</sup> Deere, Stephen (26 February 2005). "After 49 1/2 years, it's official". South Florida Sun-Sentine.
- <sup>14</sup> <sup>^</sup> Nolan, Richard T.; Pingpank, Robert (2004). "Soul Mates: More Than Partners". p. 67. <http://philosophy-religion.org/soulmates/>.

## External links

- ✦ [Philosophy and Religion](#)
- ✦ [Integrity Palm Beach](#)

Categories: [American philosophers](#) | [American religion academics](#) | [Trinity College \(Connecticut\) alumni](#) | [Yale University alumni](#) | [New York University alumni](#) | [1937 births](#) | [Living people](#)

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