

Yale University

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Ms Louise Sundermeier
The Frank J. Rooney
School of Adult and Continuing Education
Barry University
8177 W. Glades Road Suite 217
Boca Raton, Florida 33434

Dear Ms Sundermeier:

I write in connection with Dr. Richard T. Nolan and course work he did with me at Yale Divinity School in 1967. It was a seminar on "The Doctrine of Creation", using that traditional Christian theological term as an umbrella covering a variety of views of the relationship between God and the world in Western religious thought. A major theme of the seminar was the relation between the notion of "creation" as a theological doctrine, on one side, and metaphysicians' doctrines about the God-world relation on the other. Much of the semester was spent trying to sort out just what sorts of claims "metaphysical" claims are. The reading was almost entirely in writings by philosophical theologians or religious philosophers: Augustine, Aquinas, Hartshorne, Donald Evans, W.H. Walsh, R. Bultmann. I recall that particular seminar especially clearly in large part because of the vigorous expression of diverse views on the part of a number of able and strong minded participants in a relatively small seminar - Nolan among them ably pressing his own position. It was a seminar at the masters level with some doctoral students involved and in content, both in regard to reading and to issues taken up, functioned as a seminar in philosophical theology.

If I can be of any further assistance in clarifying Dr. Nolan's background academically insofar as that bears on his academic competencies, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Kelsey
Professor of Theology