

From: xxxxxx
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 4:29 PM
To: canon@rtnolan.com
Subject: Student from Mattatuck Community College

Dear Dr. Nolen,

I don't know if you remember me. I was a student at Mattatuck from 1974 through 1976. During that time, I attended two of your courses, American Philosophy and Religion and Eastern Philosophy and Religion.

I lived with Richard xxxx who also attended Mattatuck. We moved to Bantam Lake in 1976 and you asked me if I was interested in teaching Sunday school at your Church. I think I lasted one Sunday. The children were not the little angels I had expected and it was a rough morning. I remember that you laughed at me when I described how the darlings behaved and let me off the hook. I have never forgotten you. I believe I learned more about religion in the two semesters spent with you than I did in all my years of Sunday school as a child.

Richard and I married and moved to a small town in New Hampshire in 1977. We had a daughter in 1985. She is 25 years old now and in Grad School. I am sure this is contributing to my nostalgia of late. I was younger than her when I attended Mattatuck. Richard passed away in March of 2001. We were together for 29 years. I miss him dearly.

I heard a few years ago that you had retired and moved to the West Palm area. I recently bought a Condo in Boynton Beach. Whenever I was in the area, I would think of you and wonder if you were still ministering. A couple of years ago I attended a memorial service for a close friend of my sisters at the New Hope First Community Church in Del Rey. I asked a minister there if he knew you. He told me that you were now the Cantor of St Andrews in Lake Worth.

I am not sure why I am writing this except to tell you that you were a major influence in my life. As a lapsed Lutheran, married to a lapsed Catholic who had their daughter christened in a Methodist Church (it was the only church in town) I am remarkably spiritual. I credit you for this. You taught me the meaning of faith without forcing your own beliefs. You taught me enough about theology to form my own opinions and be comfortable with my beliefs. You gave me the knowledge to answer my daughter's questions when she came home from church. Now as an adult, she can form her own beliefs.

I am not a church going person nor am I one of those "mothers" that you once said you preferred not teach your Sunday school. I am just an ex-student that wants to thank you for the time you took with me and let you know that I still quote you. Of course, "bath tub virgins" is still one of my favorites but I remember the theological ones as well.

I wish you all the best.

Regards,
Joanne xxxx

from RTN: Identifying words are replaced with xxxxxx. "Bath tub virgins" are the yard shrines with a statue of Mary; the enclosures are/resemble a portion of an upright bathtub.