

Anthony Piccolo

January 2021



We learned of Tony Piccolo's January 2021 death from his brother Matthew in May 2021 and have been unable to locate an obituary. The content below is Tony's entry to our 25th anniversary book.

At the outset I want to say that I was always very confident. And when I graduated from Dartmouth I was as confident as I was when I entered about virtually everything. I was confident that I would fail; I was confident that I would die young, like my father; and I was confident that I would be sexually frustrated for the rest of my life

Naturally, I resisted success as much as I could in those early days. It was a difficult struggle, but I was tenacious. I moved to New York City. There (here) I would continue being confident about my future for some time. If things worked out as I expected, I would lose myself safely among the oppressed, the infirm, the obscure and the criminally insane. Those were great days, as I recall them.

I picked up a Ph.D. at N.Y.U. I taught for a while at Hunter and at other places in New York. Right now, I work at Manhattanville College, just north of the City, and I love it. I teach American literature each semester to a marvelous bunch of students and chair the English Department. I travel abroad when I can. I do some scholarly writing, some journalism, and lately some T.V. work.

Presently, I'm single. There have been some ups and downs; it's not always easy to distinguish between them. Since turning forty, for example, I've felt frequently that I'm just starting out. I also feel as if I've made more close friends in the past two years than I'd made in the previous two decades. I'm astonished at how easily I can get upset, but I'm heartened that it doesn't last as long. Without knowing it at Dartmouth, I wanted desperately to learn how to live. Now I know that it takes a whole lifetime.