In 2019, the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education released a document on “gender theory” and the treatment of transgender students in Catholic schools. The document proved highly influential in Catholic discussions around transgender inclusion. Since its release, individual Catholic dioceses, like Lansing, Michigan and Springfield, Illinois, have made their own guidelines that harshly condemn transgender acceptance and mandate that all individuals in Catholic communities live according to heteronormative gender norms. However, transgender and gender nonconforming people exist in all religious spaces and their presence enriches the Catholic Church.

In this presentation, I will critique the Church’s position on gender and work towards a Transgender Catholic theology that values the experiences and wisdom of transgender and gender nonconforming people.

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