Center for
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES
in Religion 25 YEARS

CLGS News and Updates | December 2025

Remembering Advent and World AIDS Day
By Reverend Terence L. Mayo

Advent is the church's ancient practice of living inside holy tension, presence and absence, hope and dread, peace and turmoil, joy and suffering.

To take up Advent is to stand with our Black ancestors in a paradoxical posture: waiting for someone who has already arrived, and celebrating a reality that has not yet fully come to pass. Advent trains our souls to tell the truth about the night without surrendering our expectation of dawn.

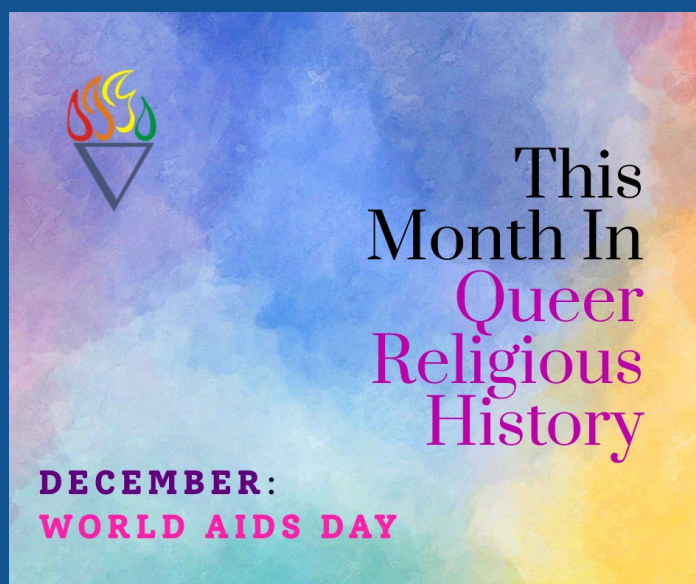## Click here to read Rev. Terence Mayo's Meditation

Queer Indigenous Thrival: Remembering Our Histories and Ancestors **with Professor Chris Finley**

In this CLGS *Lavender Lunch* we will address the tensions between thrival and survival and move towards theorizations of **Queer Indigenous hope and generosity** in these times of despair because this is not the first time we have faced annihilation and world-ending events and survived.

Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 1pm (Pacific) | ONLINE

Click HERE to join this CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!

This Month In Queer Religious History

DECEMBER: WORLD AIDS DAY

During our 2025-2026 Anniversary Year, we will honor each month one person, community, and/or event of significance in LGBTQ+ religious history.

This month, December, we commemorate **World AIDS Day**

Click here to read more!

CLGS
CENTER FOR LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES IN RELIGION

A Micro Certificate
Catholic LGBTQ+ Ministry
Facilitated by Dr. Ish Ruiz

February 2, 5, 9, 12, & 16
4:00 - 5:00pm (Pacific)
Online via ZOOM

The 2026 CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture

We are living in a day and age where the amount of God-given melanin in one's skin can literally determine what jobs you have access to, what quality of education you can receive, what types of money and other resources you have access to and even how much shorter your life-expectancy will be than that of non-melanated people.

MELANIN:
The Good...
The Bad...
and The Sacred

Bishop Tonyia Rawls
The CLGS 2026 Boswell Lecture

Melanin can be an accurate indicator of how likely it is for you to be arrested and disappeared. Melanin has even been used,by some, as a litmus test for holiness and acceptance by God.

In our next CLGS Boswell Lecture **Bishop Tonyia Rawls** will shine light on the varied ways these behaviors have impacted our nation and the church itself. God did not make a mistake when choosing a young, Black, unwed teenager to carry Jesus, the proclaimed Son of God.

ONLINE: Thursday, 16 April 2025 @ 4pm Pacific Time

TRANS RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP COHORT

Empowering students in spiritual formation

Our **Trans Religious Leadership Cohort** will offer a workshop at the Creating Change 2026 Conference in Washington DC in January 2026. Entitled **Curiosity as Resistance: Reclaiming Self, Community, and Faith from White Nationalism**, this workshop explores curiosity as a tool to resist white Christian nationalism and anti-queer/trans rhetoric.

52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families

Each week during our Anniversary Year of 2025-2026 we are sharing ideas on how your faith community can become more welcoming to – and inclusive of – LGBTQ+ People and Our Families. Join us in expanding YOUR welcome!

52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome!

Our 25th Anniversary Edition

Check Out These CLGS Resources!

QUEERING THE WORD
ADVENT PREACHING

LGBTQ+ Catholic Ministry:
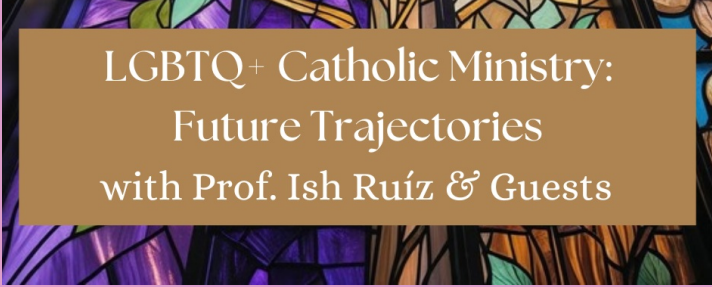**Future Trajectories**
with Prof. Ish Ruíz & Guests

As we enter Year A of the Lectionary, this **CLGS** *Queering the Word* **preaching workshop** explores creative ways to queer Advent and to set a strong foundation for the coming liturgical year.

With workshop leaders Revs. **Lauren Bennett** and **Jakob Hero-Shaw**.

Click HERE for a video recording!

We invite you view this recent online *Lavender Lunch* offered by our **CLGS Catholic Roundtable**, which featured a distinguished panel of leaders from various LGBTQ+ ministry organizations, including **CLGS, Outreach**, **New Ways Ministry**, **Dignity USA**, and the **Marianist Social Justice Collaborative LGBT Initiative**.

Click HERE for a video recording!

2025-2026 is our 25th Anniversary Year!

CENTER FOR LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES IN RELIGION

Donate Now

Contact Us
1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley CA 94709
Call Us: 510-849-8206

| **Website** | **Our Work** | **Resources** | **News and Press** | **Events** |