

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.



## PORCH SERIES | VIEWING GUIDE

### WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Here at Eden Invitation, we're blessed to gather a people, fellow disciples seeking to reconcile faith and sexuality in their own unique, unrepeatable selves. This first installment of the Porch series offers a series of vignettes—windows into the lives of three Eden Invitation community members. There's no big dramatic narrative arc. It's just people being people, offering you a little window into their "yes" to Jesus Christ and God's plan for sexuality.

### JOIN US FOR PREMIERE NIGHT

8:30 Eastern, 5:30 Pacific | Introduction & opening prayer

8:40 Eastern, 5:40 Pacific | Videos, followed by reflection questions

9:15 Eastern, 6:15 Pacific | Live interview with community members & filmmaker

9:45 Eastern, 6:45 Pacific | Closing remarks from the Co-Founders

10:00 Eastern, 7:00 Pacific | Night concludes



**KRISTEN**

A high school teacher who never wears shoes



**RAQUEL**

A creative starting an urban farm with her husband



**ANDREW**

A carpenter and car enthusiast from upstate New York

### EDEN INVITATION

Co-founded in 2017 by Anna Carter and Shannon Ochoa, Eden Invitation is a movement for young adult Catholics and Christians with experiences on the LGBTQ spectrums. We create space to receive the whole person, grow systems of mutual support, and empower for creative discipleship.

### PAUL DUDA | FILMMAKER

Co-owner of Francis & Louise, Paul has produced and directed commercial, documentary, and narrative films. He has won a handful of awards for his creative work and several films have been selected for festivals across the country. Paul produced the West Coast short for the 8Bears anthology and currently works as creative director for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

# FAQS

## **Q: Do these videos reflect the full diversity of Eden Invitation?**

Not yet! Public witness about the intersection of faith and these experiences is not currently common. This can be further exacerbated when LGBTQ experiences intersect with another minority experience, such as race and culture. Over time, our Porch Series will expand to highlight the rich diversity of disciples across the LGBTQ spectrums, beyond same sex desires alone and featuring a variety of backgrounds, careers, and states in life.

## **Q: Can you tell me more about the language used in the videos?**

You'll notice our community members move seamlessly between describing their experiences of sexuality and using adjectives to sum them up. We recognize that cultural terms in themselves carry their own origin story—be the words “homosexual” or “heterosexual,” “gay” or “straight,” anything around or in between! There is an array of thoughtful perspectives on which terms are better for believers. Eden Invitation requires that our members stand firmly in Catholic teaching on personal identity and sexual ethics. We do not, however, require uniformity in the adjectives used to describe one's experience of sexuality.

## **Q: How can I spark conversation with a group?**

If you're hosting a watch party, the brief interludes between videos may not be enough time to really engage others. We recommend sticking around and asking each other a few simple questions:

- Which person did you relate to most and why?
- What would people find if they sat on your “porch”?
- How have these stories affected your understanding of people experiencing same sex desires in the Church? How will you grow from this experience?

## **Q: What do I do next?**

Share these videos, keep in touch on social media, and schedule a cup of coffee with your LGBTQ friends to hear their stories too! There are also a number of ways to get involved with Eden Invitation. If you have an LGBTQ experience, we offer small groups, retreats, and a robust online community. Want to get in touch with us? Head over to <https://www.edeninvitation.com/community>. We also welcome everyone—whatever your experience!—to become a mission partner. Find out more at <https://www.edeninvitation.com/donate>.



porch series