



# CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious  
and  
Civil Rights*

December 21, 2017

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Mr. David Glasser  
President and COO  
The Weinstein Company  
99 Hudson St.  
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mr. Glasser:

I have a modest, yet important, request: Please move the release date for "Mary Magdalene" to a time that does not coincide with Holy Week (the week before Easter). The movie was supposed to open last month but was rescheduled for March 30. That happens to be Good Friday, the most solemn day in the Christian calendar.

There are two reasons for this request. The first concerns Harvey Weinstein. Notwithstanding his departure from The Weinstein Company, this will always be regarded as his movie.

Over the last few decades, Weinstein has made one anti-Catholic film after another. Obviously, I am wary of any movie that he is associated with that touches on Christianity. (See the enclosed.)

Adding to my concerns is what Weinstein said about the Catholic League last February when news of the movie broke. "I'll probably take a vacation around the time the film comes out because over the years the Catholic League have [*sic*] made me their poster boy. I get sent lovely letters [saying things] like Dear Jew mother\*\*\*\*\*."

Was Weinstein getting out in front of another public feud with me? If so, there must be a reason why. While he is no longer associated with the film, his fingerprints are all over it.

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A second reason for concern are news reports about the movie's script. The following have been said about the film.

- Jesus "may or may not have a close relationship with God."
- "The film also tells the story through a feminist lens, and it looks like a lot of it will be through Mary Magdalene's eyes."
- "The Crucifixion is hinted at towards the end, but more than any religious or spiritual aspect, the film seems to be targeting a wider audience with the potential romantic angle being played up."
- "The trailer doesn't overtly hint at a possible romantic relationship between Magdalene and Christ, but presents it as undertones in the narrative, which is left for the viewer to interpret."

If the first observation is true, it would wholly undermine the Christian story. Jesus, as Christians believe, is the Son of God. His divinity is not a matter of speculation or debate—it is the core Christian teaching.

Feminist revisions of Mary Magdalene, including romantic depictions, are hardly new, though I hasten to add that they have more to do with the author's imagination than with biblical scholarship.

Movies that offer a controversial look at Christianity are one thing; they are quite another when released during Holy Week. I might add that in 1995 I protested the Miramax release date of "Priest": it was scheduled to debut on Good Friday. It was subsequently changed to a later date. Surely the same change could now be made with regard to "Mary Magdalene."

I think we can both agree that a movie that offered a "new look" at Rev. Martin Luther King, one that focused on his relations with women, would make for a screen sensation. But to release it on his birthday—or during Black History Month—would send a message to African Americans that would clearly be seen as offensive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Donohue".

William Donohue, Ph.D.

President