

Rome, 19th June 1952

Dear Monsignor Masterson,

First of all, I want to congratulate you for the Pontifical Decoration recently conferred on you.

In reply to your kind letter of the 10th inst. I hasten to inform you that the " Italian Catholic Center " has judged the film " Don Camillo " to be " publicly visible for everybody " owing to the following reasons :

The story taken from the well known book of Guareschi is animated by a sense of human kindness which in the end prevails over the factional contrasts. The film has been declared " publicly visible for all ".

Perhaps you will be surprised at our judgment, but I can assure you, that before judging the film , I have been acting cautiously and the film has been seen by three committees and also by some very cautious clergyman. We know very well here Guareschi's book and everybody knows what he thinks of communism. The opinion of the Italian Catholics has been favourable, whilst the communists have criticized it sharply.

Also the episode of the confession which is not very nice in itself, has been tolerated, as it is evident, that there is only the question of a word.

The above named film has been seen by many people and also by many priests (the Oratorio di San Pietro has put it on the program for the priests of Rome during three days) and I have not had a single protest as to our judgment. Also the Catholic critics have accepted it. Nevertheless we have made some objections as can be seen from a long article in our " Rivista del Cinematografo ".

While I can assure you that the C.C.C. has been acting seriously and cautiously, I also want to point out to you, that I perfectly understand your doubts about the film. I am convinced that

every National Office has to take into consideration the particular sensibility of the Catholics of its own country.

It may be, that this film is not fit for the United States and it is up to you to judge it so.

I have indirectly got to know that the Producers are willing to make all the necessary changes; this only said for your information.

Of course , in this case, the Pontifical Committee does not intend to interfere, as also with regard to all the other films and wants the National Catholic Centers to be completely free as to any judgment.

Best remembrance and kind regards to you and to the Rev. Father Little.

Yours faithfully