

Archdiocese of Detroit

February 25, 2004

Cardinal Maida on “The Passion of the Christ”

Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit, was asked on Ash Wednesday morning by Paul W. Smith about the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. The cardinal indicated he had not seen the film, but said:

“The Passion story (not the movie) is a core belief of our faith—that Jesus loved us, suffered and died for us, and was resurrected. All of humanity has the opportunity for salvation. That’s the core message.

I don’t think the film is about anti-semitism. I don't think that was the intent. The Passion play and the story of the crucifixion have been given many interpretations...and this movie is just the latest.

At the same time, our Holy Father has worked tirelessly on our relationship with the Jewish people. That has been wonderful...the way it’s grown. It’s just wrong to blame any group of people or specific individuals for what happened in this historical moment, when Jesus gave his life for us.”

Cardinal Maida added, “...no crucifixion is a beautiful thing to see or to witness, and in our age, when there is so much violence, this could be misinterpreted by young children.”

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