



Tim Cook
CEO, Apple Inc.
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

June 2, 2025

Dear Mr. Cook,

As the nation's largest lay Catholic advocacy organization, we write to express our concern about a blasphemous anti-Catholic scene in the Apple TV+ show, *Your Friends and Neighbors*.

Episode 6 of the series depicts two characters breaking into a Catholic church. The male character steals Eucharistic hosts from the tabernacle, which they eat as a snack. The man flippantly remarks about how they are eating the Body of Christ. The man feeds a host to the female character and feigns blessing her. Then they begin engaging in romantic activity in the pews before the pastor walks in and they flee the church.

As Catholics, we have believed for 2,000 years that the Eucharist is not simply a piece of bread. It is the body, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. The practice of taking communion was instituted by Christ himself at the Last Supper. Receiving the Eucharist at Mass is, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "the source and summit of the Christian life."

The sacrilegious scene seems to bear little relevance to the plot, so it is clearly little more than a mean-spirited effort to mock Catholicism. This affront is even more disheartening at a time when Catholics are in a celebratory and hopeful frame of mind after the recent election of the new pope.

We speak on behalf of millions of Catholics across the country and the world when we say we are shocked and outraged that Apple – one of the world's largest companies and an American icon – would promulgate such blatant disrespect for the world's largest religion on a show bearing the imprimatur, "An Apple Original".

Apple claims inclusion and diversity as core values. "At Apple, we create a culture of collaboration where different experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives come together to make something magical and meaningful," reads a mission statement on

your website. “A culture with a North Star of dignity, respect, and opportunity for everyone. Because we’re not all the same. And that remains one of our greatest strengths.”

Is promoting content which mocks and degrades the faith of Catholics compatible with this “culture of dignity, respect, and opportunity for everyone?” Would you permit an equivalent mockery of the Islamic faith or the Jewish faith? We think not. Why is it acceptable to Apple to disrespect Catholicism in this way?

In 2015, you wrote in an op-ed, “I have great reverence for religious freedom. ... Apple is open. Open to everyone, regardless of where they come from, what they look like, how they worship or who they love.”

On behalf of millions of Catholics and fellow Christians around the globe, we call on you to remove this blasphemous episode from Apple TV+. We also request a meeting with you to discuss how Apple can foster true diversity and tolerance by ensuring its content is respectful of the religious practices of Catholics.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Mercer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Josh Mercer
Vice President, CatholicVote

CC: Cynthia Bowman, Vice President of Inclusion and Diversity, Apple
Zack Van Amburg, Worldwide Video Programming, Apple Studios
Jamie Erlicht, Worldwide Video Programming, Apple Studios
Matt Cherniss, Domestic Creative Development, Apple Studios
Morgan Wandell, International Creative Development, Apple Studios
Eddy Cue, Internet Software & Services, Apple
Jonathan Tropper, Tropper Ink
Craig Gillespie, Fortunate Jack Productions
Annie Marter, Fortunate Jack Productions
Jon Hamm, Executive Producer