

Can Catholics Take a Joke?

New York—The first collection today, "The first collection today," announces Father Murphy, "is for the new roof on the church. The second collection is for the old roof."

"Father Murphy" is himself in a collection: an unusual record album of humorous religious monologues—poking good-natured fun at Catholic sermons, "hip" priests, monastery life and other facets of Catholicism.

The album, by a 31-year-old nightclub comedian named Ron Carey, is titled, appropriately, "The Slightly Irreverent Comedy of Ron Carey." According to "Billboard," the music-record industry trade publication, the album "is expected to be the forerunner of similar Catholic-oriented LP's, just as Dick Gregory was in the vanguard of Negro comedians commenting on the Civil Rights movement, and Vaughn Meader removed the 'Sacred Cow' sign from the White House with 'The First Family' album."

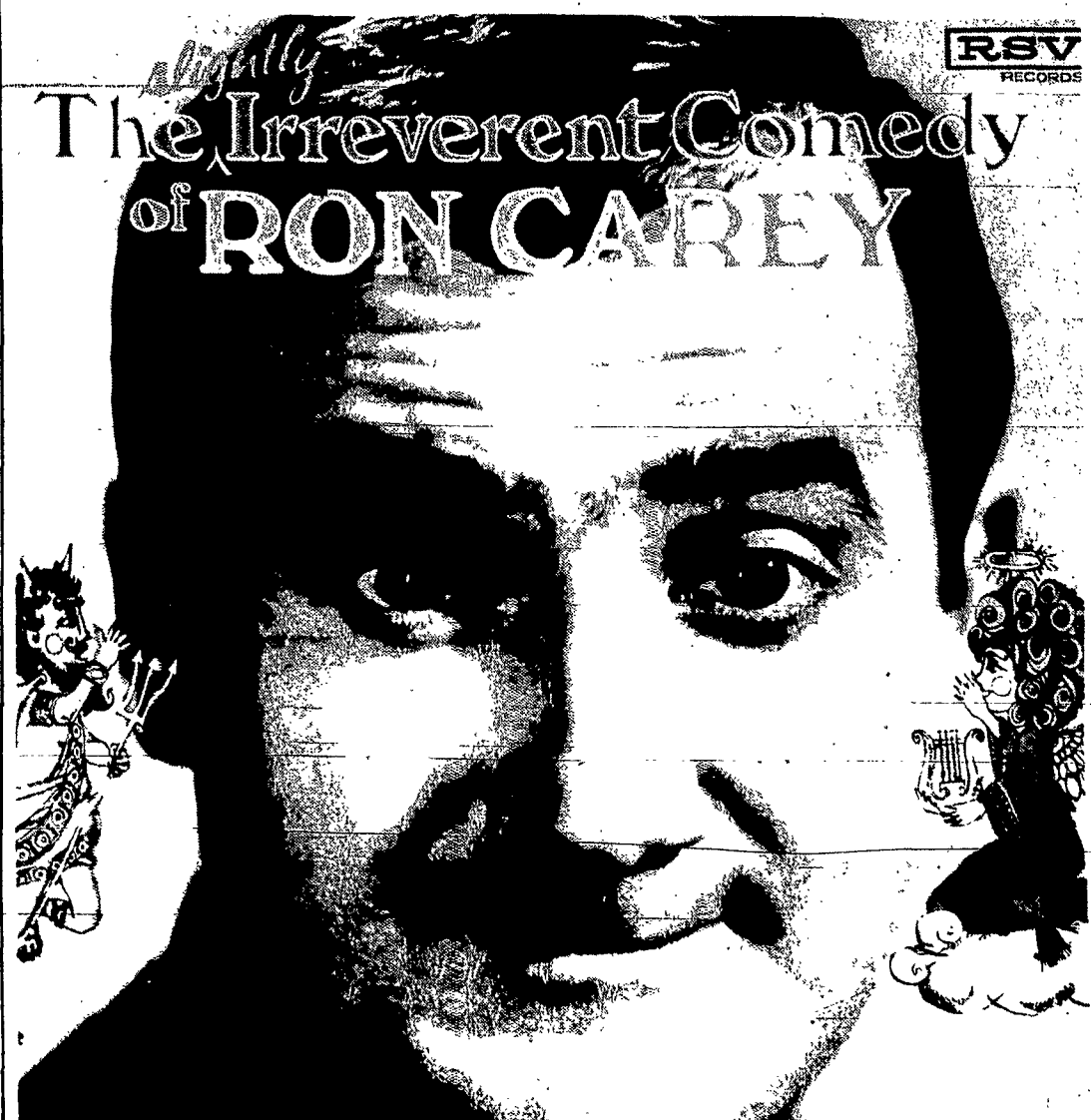
Carey, a Catholic and a graduate of Seton Hall University, has done a number of the album's routines in nightclubs, on the syndicated "Merv Griffin Show" and—last month—on CBS-TV's "Steve Allen Comedy Hour," where he satirically compared monastery indoctrination to a reception of recruits by a tough-talking Army top sergeant.

"Chins in, heads bowed and

stand meek!" barks the head monk, welcoming the newcomers to "the Praying 71st" before sending them off to the supply room where they can

"pick-up your basic soul-saving equipment, including one field Bingo set."

The above routine will appear funniest to men who have been through basic military training, but the other monologues on the album rely solely on the listeners sense of humor



Family Rosary Radio Leaders

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAY, WMBE-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 8 in Elmira, Channel 5 in Hornell and at 8.75 mc in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

Friday, August 4 — Michael Veil of St. James parish, with members of Kolping Society.

Saturday, August 5 — (Mass will be celebrated) — Michael Costello, St. Salome's parish.

Sunday, August 6 — John McGuire, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester.

Monday, August 7 — Thomas Deck, Holy Family, with members of St. Thomas More Club.

Tuesday, August 8 — Lester Burke, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Wednesday, August 9 — Larry Haraden, Holy Ghost, with members of parish Men's Club.

Thursday, August 10 — Paul Ryan, St. Rita's, West Webster.

What's New in the Parishes

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—Meeting of the Willing Workers, Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 p.m. in library of Immaculate Conception School.

ST. WILLIAMS, Conesus — Breakfast benefit, Sunday, August 6, 8-11:30 a.m., Conlon Mulvaney Legion Hall. Those interested in forming Sacred Heart League, meeting August 16, home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Liptak.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Churchville—Annual Bazaar August 5, 5 p.m. Smorgasbord. Booths. General chairmen, Clarence Johnson, Helen Dermody.

ST. JOSAPHAT, Irondequoit

Holy Name Society will receive communion, Sunday, August 13, at 9 a.m. Mass.

Providence Assn. of Ukrainian Catholics, St. Nicholas Branch, will meet Sunday, August 6 at 2 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Club.

First Friday of the month, August 4, visitation of the sick and bed-ridden.

Lincoln Rochester Names V. President

Robert E. Hanley has been elected Vice President, Commercial Loan Department at Lincoln Rochester Trust Co.

In his new position, Hanley will assume responsibility for the Commercial Loan Department of the Commercial Loan Department.

Hanley, who has worked at Lincoln Rochester since 1948,

previously was Assistant Vice President of the department. Hanley has been affiliated with commercial lending at the bank since 1959.

Hanley is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Speaker's Bureau. He resides at 150 Northgate Road, (Greece), with his wife and two children.

Theatre Selects

Co-Chairmen

Mrs. M. Jack Herman and Robert M. Schneider have been selected by the Theatre East Board of Directors as co-chairmen of the fall subscription campaign.

Assisting Mrs. Herman and Mr. Schneider will be Miss Judi Hill, heading the "Under 25" group; Mr. Charles Napier, directing the campaign among the businessmen; and, leading the general divisions, Mesdames Robert L. Burmar, Benjamin DelMonaco, Raymond Goldstein, Nathaniel Hurst, Theodore Lukas, Frank Montredo, Gordon Small and J. Richard Wilson.

Film Ratings

Following are the titles of films reviewed this week by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

Class A, Section I
Ballad of Josie, The — Univ. Enter Laughing — Col. What Am I Bid — Emerson

Class A, Section IV
Hawks and the Sparrows, The — Brandon. Observation: The allegorical character of the film offers unusual difficulties of interpretation.

LIONEL COURTEMANCHE

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—SATURDAY REVIEW

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and his opinion of what facets of Catholicism can and cannot be made fun of.

His album starts out with his assessment of the probable long-range results of the Second Vatican Council, with comments about "the annual College of Cardinals spring dance"; the development of new products of a religious-commercial nature: "Genuflex... for those of you who can't pray before every meal," and the eventual comic-book treatment of religious heroes: "... faster than a second collection, it's Super Priest!"

"There have been many comedians and humorists who have told funny 'Catholic' stories," Carey said in an interview, mentioning Pat O'Brien as an example. "They would tell stories about 'Father Murphy.' Well, I do Father Murphy."

Indeed, one of the highlights of the album is Carey's version of an elderly priest reading a long list of announcements during the 12 o'clock Sunday Mass, complete with a report of a bazaar "which this year will run from January 2nd to October 29th" and a reading of activities for the coming week: "Thursday night, a lecture in the school auditorium in the evils of gambling. Friday night, Bingo."

Jazz priests and disk-jockey priests get ribbed when Carey portrays "Father Bopper" on radio station WQOD, with the week's Top Ten tunes, which include "I found a Million-Dollar Nun in Front of a 5 and 10-cent Store" and "The Apostles" singing their big hit, "Persecutions Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine."

Carey's album was released just about the time that another humorist, Tom Lehrer, touched off a storm of protest over a satiric song he sang on a New York City educational-TV station. Titled "The Vatican Rag," it made fun of Catholic devotional practice, but Carey and the record company, RSVP Records, had held off on the album for a year, deleting passages they thought might be offensive and—just as important—waiting for what they called "the right time." Even as little as a year ago, said-RSVP president Jerry Simon, "I felt that the Church, then, was still too sacrosanct a topic for a comedy album."

In the planning now is a college-camps tour by Carey (the album is reportedly big with

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college radio stations on both Catholic and secular campuses) and a possible follow-up album.

"I do other things and I don't want to be called the religious comedian," but we're working on some new religious monologues," Carey said. "I think the idea of married priests could use some comedy relief right now. I think you could have a lot of fun doing a hen-pecked priest, a sort of Ralph Kramden of the clergy."

"And this idea of a union for priests. Can't you see Jimmy Hoffa type calling a meeting of priests and telling them: 'All right, you guys, from now on you've got to get all your holy water from me.'—Catholic Press Features.

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