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New UNESCO Head

'Competition' With Missioners

United Nations.—(RNS)—Dr. Vittorino Veronese, newly elected Director General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, stressed here that while UNESCO remains aloof from questions involving religious, moral, or ideological issues, it is by no means neutral with regard to religious values.

In his first press conference at UN headquarters since he was elected last November, Dr. Veronese affirmed that his group "cannot remain indifferent" to any movements which advance the cause of brotherhood and international understanding.

He cited the work done not only by missionary groups in underdeveloped countries, but also other religious bodies engaged in educational and welfare work. Such organizations, he said, run a "fruitful competition" with the work done by UNESCO and other specialized agencies of the UN.

DR. VERONESE is a former president of Italian Catholic Action and is a militant anti-Communist. He reminded his audience that UNESCO is primarily concerned with matters of mind and spirit. By means of its first goal—education, he observed, it hopes to help erase ignorance "which is at the root of international tension."

Dr. Veronese was elected to his present post despite an attempt by the Soviet Union for a six month postponement in order to find an acceptable candidate from Asia.

Born at Vicenza, Italy, on March 1, 1910, Dr. Veronese obtained the degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Padua, at the age of 20. He held the post of Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, "Athenaeo Angelicum," Rome,



DR. VERONESE
UNESCO Director

After leaving the University, Dr. Veronese was active in two main areas: the study of social and educational problems, with special reference to those concerning international cooperation and its methods, and economic and banking activities in which he acquired and showed his capacity as an administrator.

As he was not a supporter of Fascism, his activities in official life were limited, and in the decades before 1944 he devoted himself to the study of social and educational problems. In 1944 he became Secretary

of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Rome.

Active in international organizations since the war, Dr. Veronese in 1951 became President and later Honorary President of the Association of Refugee Intellectuals in Italy. He served as a deputy to the Italian Delegation at the Second Congress of the Latin Union in Madrid in 1954. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Society for International Organizations, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Union of International Associations.

Among other activities, Dr. Veronese has been active as a writer and lecturer. He has served as Editor of the review, "Stadium," as a member of the editorial board of the review, "Africa," and has contributed articles to other magazines and newspapers.

Dr. Veronese has been awarded several Italian and foreign decorations, among them the Gold Medal for Service to Culture, conferred by the President of the Republic of Italy.

As a member of the Social Sciences Committee of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, he has attended all sessions of the General Conference, as a member of the Italian Delegation, since Italy joined the Organization in 1948.

Children's Pilgrimage To Lourdes

Boston.—(NC)—Sixty-three handicapped children who were flown from here to France for a pilgrimage to Lourdes traveled on Cardinal Cushing's personal passport.

The unusual waiver of Federal requirements for foreign travel was granted by Frances G. Knight, director of the U.S. Passport Office, and by Gen. J. M. Swing, Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, both in Washington.

Miss Knight deemed the authorization a "privilege" of the State Department and added that the government considered the pilgrimage for the children a humane and charitable undertaking.

In a good-by message to his faithful, Cardinal Cushing said, "We shall devote the week to prayers for peace, for guidance of the men who formulate national policies and sit at conference tables, for our priests in South America, for the children who accompany us and for all the exceptional children in the United States."



Catholic Leaders At USO Conference

Washington.—(RNS)—Standing with Harvey Firestone, Jr., of Akron, O., (second from left), national chairman of the United Service Organizations (USO), are some of the Catholic leaders who attended the 18th annual meeting of the group's national board in Washington, D.C. Left to right are: Edward B. Hanify of Boston, a member of the executive committee of the National Catholic Community Services; Mr. Firestone; Mrs. Henry Barkhorn of Newark, N.J., chairman of the international relations committee of the National Council of Catholic Women; and John J. Daly of Richmond, Va., editor of the Catholic Virginian and president of the Catholic Press Association. All are members of the USO National Council.

U. S. Catholics

Bible Reading Boom

Chicago.—(RNS)—A tremendous increase in Bible-reading among Roman Catholics was described by a professor of sacred Scripture at the 35th annual conference of the Catholic Library Association here.

The Rev. John F. McConnell of Maryknoll Seminary, Glen Ellyn, Ill., told school, hospital and parish librarians from across the country that the "thirst for the Word of God" has become a characteristic of the Church's life.

This new love of the Scriptures, he said, "has gone hand in hand" with a renewed appreciation of the Church's liturgy and a "fresh vision" of the Church as the mystical body of Christ and the individual's responsibility as a member of it.

Asserting that this heightened interest in the Bible is "widespread and intense," Father McConnell declared, "It is no fad, no mood of the moment, no mere by-product of the popular interest in the Dead Sea Scrolls or the Gnostic manuscripts.

"It is a deadly serious affair,

at least for the younger Catholics of our day," he said. "They really want to know the Word of God, and are prepared to give time and effort to the study of the Scriptures."

Father McConnell was chairman of the translation committee for the New Testament produced in 1952 by the Congregation of Christian Doctrine.

"The Bible is an old book, a library of old books," he said. "In its passages we hear the voice of God speaking to us."

through men of an ancient civilization and an alien mentality. To find out what He is saying to us of today, we must first learn what He was saying to the men of the age in which the books were first written.

Father McConnell noted that Pope Pius XII in a number of his encyclicals encouraged Catholics to apply historical and literary criticism to Biblical scholarship. The Pope, he said, never meant to restrict the true liberty of Catholic Biblical scholars.

Undset Play Translated Into English, German

Oslo, Norway.—(NC)—The dramatization of part of Sigrid Undset's Nobel Prize-winning novel centered on Norway's Catholic Middle Ages has proved such a success that the play has now been translated into English and German.

The stage adaptation of "The Bridal Wreath" the first part of the historical trilogy "Kristin Lavransdatter" had its premiere at the New Theater here last August. It is still playing.

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