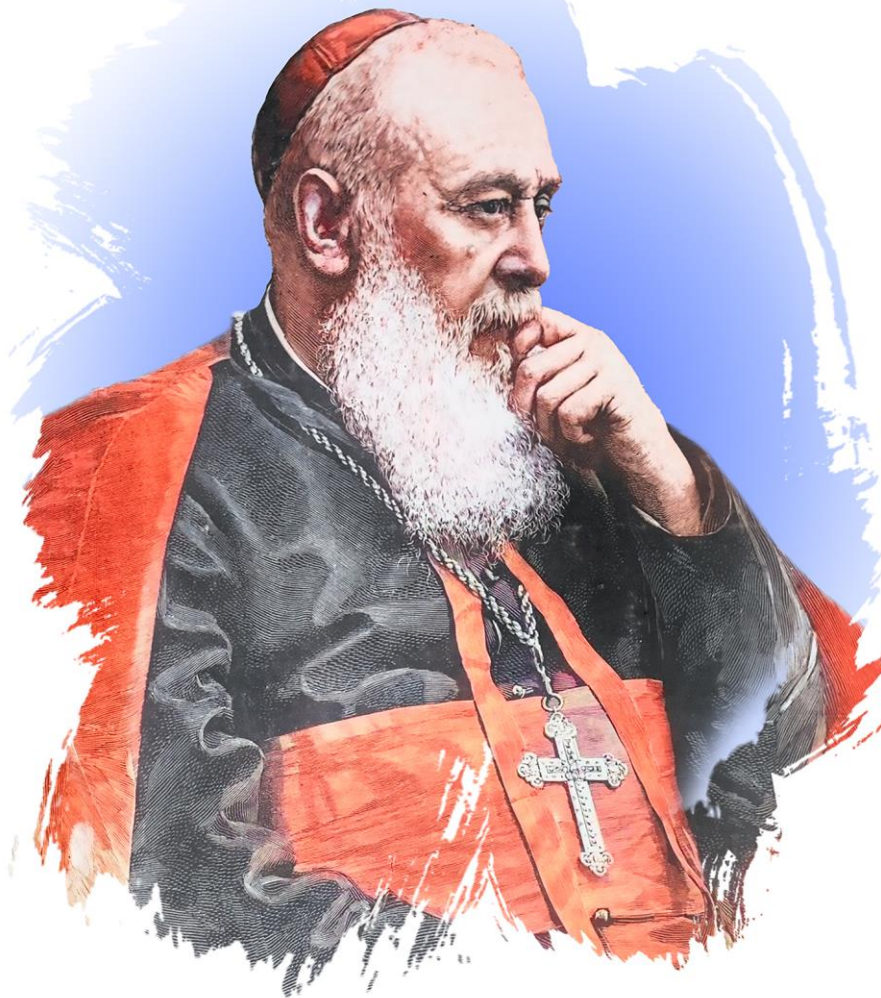


# NOVENA WITH CARDINAL LAVIGERIE

FOR A PASSIONATE  
AND RENEWED COMMITMENT  
TO AFRICAN PEOPLES



1825 - 2025

**BICENTENARY**  
OF THE BIRTH OF THE CARDINAL  
**CHARLES LAVIGERIE**



## Introduction

Cardinal Lavigerie is the founder of the Missionaries of Africa (M.Afr) known as White Fathers and the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa (MSOLA), known as White Sisters. This prayer is composed during the bicentenary of the birth of Lavigerie 31. 10. 1825 - 31. 10. 2025. It is inspired by “Being Apostles. Nothing But Apostles: Fifteen days with the Cardinal” by Fr Bernard Ugeux. We thank him for allowing us to use the text.

Thousands of men and women, priests, religious men and women, and lay people have been inspired by Lavigerie for his four passions: Passion for God, Passion for Humanity, Passion for the Church, Passion for Africa. He dedicated his entirely life to service of Africa. Cardinal Lavigerie had a strong devotion for Our Lady. He thus entrusted the two religious families ( M.Afr and MSOLA) to the care of Our Lady of Africa.

It is our hope that the Bicentenary celebration of the birth of our Founder will re-ignite in us the four Passion that characterised the life of Cardinal Lavigerie, thus renewing our commitment to service of African People. The structure of the Novena is simple. The novena begins with a text from Cardinal Lavigerie. Then follows a small reflection on the text. After that we have a general prayer intention in line with the theme of the day. We could take a short moment of silence to allow each person to add his own personal intention. We conclude the prayer with the prayer for the Jubilee through the intercession of the Saints and Martyrs of Africa.

We wish each and every one a blessed jubilee year for a passionate and renewed commitment to the African People, inspired by our Founder Cardinal Charles Martial Lavigerie.

Sr Beatrice Badini, MSOLA

Sr Cecile Dile, MSOLA

Sr Leticia G. Mejía, MSOLA (General Council)

Fr Maganya H. Innocent, M.Afr

Fr Pawel Hulecki, M.Afr (General Council)

Fr Serge Mousa Traore, M.Afr





## Day ONE: Passion for God

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

#### *“A strong and ardent attachment to Our Lord”*

*Ultimately, under a variety of forms of expression, a single sentiment inspired them. This is the one Our Lord asked of Peter to make him Head of his Apostles; the one St. Augustine, the Doctor of our Africa and of the whole Church, proclaims the unique law of Christians; the one I took myself for my motto (Caritas): love, the love of God and that of so many abandoned souls. This love has supported me, in the midst of the hardships and privations that have worn my life out before its time. It is also this love that will give you strength, heroic self-sacrifice, and perseverance. Love them, then, as a mother loves her sons, in proportion to their misery and their weakness (I.209-210).*

### Reflection:

Lavigerie had a passionate commitment to the salvation of Africans. The source of this commitment was his love for a God who offers his mercy to every human being. His spirituality is centred on Christ. Shortly before his death, Cardinal Lavigerie told the Students from St Eugene School to be mad about Jesus Christ as he Himself was. He says that the sanctification of a Missionary - which is his first task - assumes two things that are equally necessary. The first is detachment from human realities and the second is a strong, fervent attachment to Our Lord (I.237). Christ is the one from whom everything comes and towards whom everything converges. It is his Kingdom that the Missionary is called to extend to the whole of Africa. It is Christ who supports the discouraged Missionary, who asks from his Father on his behalf the strength to be faithful to his precepts. To Marie Claver (then postulant), who later became assistant to Mother Salome Lavigerie said: *The sap and the really essential point of the consecrated life is what the Lord asks of the Apostles: to love Him and to love nothing but Him and for Him, and especially the souls to whom He sends to them. This is the only condition he imposes on Peter to choose from: Peter, do you love me? The day you say it with truth, everything will be done - but to truly love Jesus, you have to detach yourself from all the rest (R.515).*





**Intention:**

Let us us pray for the sanctification of the the Missionaries that they may have the same passionate love for God, source and fountain for their apostolic life.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary

**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day TWO: Passion for Africa

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

***“I have loved everything about Africa.”***

*It is to you that I am now coming, O my dear Africa. I had sacrificed everything to you seventeen years ago, when compelled by a force that was obviously that of God, I left everything to dedicate myself to your service. Since then, what travels, what exhaustions, what sorrows! I recall them only to forgive and to express once again my invincible hope of seeing the portion of this great continent that once knew the Christian religion, to return fully to the light and the truth, and the one that has hitherto remained immersed in the most frightful barbarity, to come out of its darkness and death. It was to this work that I dedicated my life. But what is a man's life for a similar enterprise? I have hardly been able to sketch this enterprise (EA. 235-238).*

### Reflection:

These words were written in 1884, that is 8 years before the death of Cardinal Lavignerie. These words are a kind of a spiritual testament, a summary of Lavignerie's dream amidst disillusionment and hope. Although he did not achieve much of his dream for Africa, Lavignerie rejoiced in the achievements of his missionaries on the ground. He rejoiced to see the progress achieved by his Missionaries - men and women - with Africans, whom he immediately wanted to prepare to become apostles to themselves. Lavignerie had a great respect for African people. This is expressed in his Pauline spirituality of 'all things to all men and women', the adoption of their culture as much as possible. He opposed any form of racism. Lavignerie had a comprehensive plan for a peaceful "conquest" of what was known as Equatorial Africa this monograph, he paints a comprehensive picture in view of the establishment of four new vicariates in a vast territory where the Congregation of Propaganda was not yet present. One of the means to this end was the transformation of Africa by Africans, through a training that would leave them truly African.

Today, this love of Africa on the part of the two Missionary Institutes is not limited to the African continent and to those who live there. They want to get closer to Africans in the diaspora present around the world, where they bring a lot of wealth among others in the energy given to the Christian communities to which they often give a new inspiration.







**Intention:**

Our dear Africa is facing a lot of challenges due to bad governance and insecurity. Let us pray for peace and stability on the continent. so that the inhabitants may enjoy the fruits of God’s given wonderful creation.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary

**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us. Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity. Consolidate our community and intercultural life. Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal. Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day THREE: Passion for Humanity

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

*“Nothing human is foreign to me.”*

*“I am a man, and I am familiar with everything human.” (Terence, from Heautontimorumenos, v. 77). It is a cry that started from Rome, and which echoes throughout the universe. I am a man; injustice towards other people revolts my heart. I am a man; oppression is unworthy of my nature. I am a man; the cruelties against so many of my fellow-creatures instigate only horror within me. I am a man, and what I would like to be done to give me freedom, honour, the sacred bonds of the family, I want to do in order to restore to the sons of this unfortunate race, family, honour and freedom (E.98).*

### Reflection:

Through the correspondence with his missionaries on the field, Lavigerie became aware of the horrendous crime of slave trade and the plight of the Africans. Using the information from the ground he took his pilgrim staff and toured European major cities in an anti-slavery movement and campaign. As a result of his anti-slavery crusade, several anti-slavery movements were created, joining other movements such as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (BFAS) and the Aborigines Protection Society. (APS). With financial help from Pope Leo XIII, Lavigerie linked up with ecclesiastical authorities all over Europe. In 1888 he created in Brussels the Anti-Slavery Society in support of his anti-slavery campaign, with the support of Pope Leo XIII. Three years later Pope Leo XIII wrote his encyclical letter Rerum Novarum, the foundation of the social doctrine of the Church. The statement that Lavigerie made at the Church of Gesu on December 23rd, 1888, expresses his deep respect for the dignity of every human person.

### Intention:

Let us pray for the end of the injustice of human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery on the continent. We pray for victims of these horrendous crimes and for the conversion of the human traffickers and their accomplices.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary





**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	







## Day FOUR: Passion for Mission

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

**“Be apostles, nothing but apostles.”**

*My dear children, you are not ordinary travellers, you are not explorers, and yet you seem to copy in all your ways of doing and thinking what people like Stanley are about (...). You are apostles, you are only that; or, at least, the rest must come only in addition. I exhort you, resurrect in you these great thoughts of the apostolate. (...) I love you dearly, my dear children, but I would prefer to learn of your death than to see you miss the spirit of your vocation and become some type of African ‘Robinson Crusoe’, as I have told you sometimes. Lift up your hearts! This is the cry I send you through space to awaken your souls (I.121-122). The virtue proper to a Missionary is zeal. Zeal is the perfection of charity (I 52-53).*

### Reflection:

Since his youth, Cardinal Lavigerie's ideal had been to be an apostle, to be a missionary, to put all his energy at the service of the proclamation of the Good News, to preach Jesus Christ by word and example. As apostles, we must first be men of God, he said forcefully. (I.138).

The nineteenth century saw in the Church the birth of a large number of apostolic and Missionary Societies. It was also the time of the great discoveries of the interior of this mysterious continent by Europeans, who attracted explorers as well as colonisers and adventurers of all kinds. Lavigerie sensed that there might be a temptation for his young Missionaries to become exhilarated by the taste for adventure and risk.

Through our Baptism, we are all called to witness the Good News that has enticed us. This call is not just for Missionaries. Around us, there are also so many people in search of meaning and value in a world where the person is so often devalued, and the spiritual life drowned by consumerism. There are many other forms of dependencies and frailties from which the witness of our attachment to Christ can bring freedom. Wherever we are, our family, our work environment.

### Intention:

We pray for a renewed passion and zeal for mission, without counting the cost of discipleship. May we be animated by the same fire that characterised Lavigerie and his first Missionaries.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary





**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day FIVE: Passion for the people and their cultures

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

*“Be all things to all people to redeem some of them.”*

*[A Missionary] ought to approach the local people through all external habits, by language first, clothing and food, in accordance with the example of the Apostle: “I made myself everything to all to save them all” (I.52) (translated from the Latin Bible).*

### Reflection:

To draw them to Christ, we must not make others like ourselves, but make ourselves similar to them. This deep conviction underpinned the early stages of Africa's evangelisation: in relation to Arabs and Muslims, to the peoples of Central Africa, of the Middle East in the Holy Land. Lavignerie opposed the excessive Italianisation of the Curia, which he said undermined the Catholicity of the Church. He also opposed the systematic Latinisation of Orthodox converts to Catholicism. Lavignerie insisted on the learning of local languages and the study of local cultures. For him it was a matter of respect for the people and societies as well as for apostolic effectiveness. The study of the language was to hold the first rank among all the concerns of the Missionaries until they spoke it perfectly (I.135). As for Saint Paul, “to all” means to announce the Good News: to any person, no matter their culture, religion, sex, and economic or intellectual development, with a preference option for the poorest.

### Intention:

We pray for the openness of heart and mind so that we may be able to welcome the different other, not as a threat, but as a source of wealth. Let us open our doors of our hearts to the outsider in the spirit of universal brotherhood and sisterhood.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary

### Prayer for the Jubilee:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.





Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day SIX: Charity Above all

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Text from the Cardinal:**

*Charity is the master weapon, because it is the one that penetrates hearts and inflicts wounds of eternal life. Let this be the secret of your action (I.52-53). In our relations with the unbelievers, we must be inspired by a supernatural love for them; we must love them as Our Lord loved His Apostles. We must want to die for them, just as Jesus Christ died for his Apostles. (I.320). When I speak of charity, I do not speak only of the charity of almsgiving, I speak of the charity which knows how to suffer, to give oneself, to sacrifice oneself if necessary, and which, by this demonstration, finally forces the most hardened ones to say, "Those are really God's disciples" (P.88).*

### **Reflection:**

Lavigerie was a man with a big heart, full of compassion. All his life was filled with deeds, where he put into practice his motto 'Caritas' symbolised by the Pelican. The example of the Pelican is an invitation to give our blood to feed those who depend on us. For the Cardinal, all the apostolic activity of the Missionary aims to share with those he meets what his joy is and his reason for living: to know Christ. It is not just a matter of creating warm relationships with people we care about, but of turning to each and every one of them, attractive or otherwise, and offering them that unique encounter. It is also what he asks of his Sisters when they visit families. He invites Missionaries to recognise the Lord in every patient they care for and for whom they must show great patience. Many accounts show his attention to people and his concern for the most fragile. One of his first acts when he arrived in Algiers was to create a home for the elderly, to be cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

### **Intention:**

We pray that we may hear the cry of the poor among us and respond to their needs.  
We pray that we may be able to treat them with respect and dignity.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary





**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	







## Day SEVEN: Passion for Unity

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Text from the Cardinal:**

*I recommend, from the fountain of mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, to all my children, and, if I could so, I would kneel in front of each of them individually to address this prayer to them, to preserve fraternal charity among them inside and outside. They would do horrible evil, and would certainly prevent the conversion of unbelievers if they were seen to be set at odds with one another, or divided among themselves, and all the more so if they were heard arguing with one another. By contrast, they will easily win hearts by the demonstration of perfect unity (A2.151).*

*The first thing I recommend to you, my dearest daughters, because it is actually the most essential, is the spirit of mutual union and charity. It seemed to me in the past, and especially in a period already fortunately a little distant, that this spirit was lacking in you ... As if you were not all equally spouses of Our Lord, as if you were not all one and the same family (N.169-170).*

### **Reflection:**

Fraternal life, the Rule of Three, internationality, cohesion around the Superior, fidelity to the Rule and regular advice, all this, ultimately, is at the service of the Missionaries' raison d'être: to live together as apostles, in the service of Africa, by putting into practice the motto of the Founder, of which he himself says: Charity! I wanted to take this one word for a motto, so that whenever the name and arms of your Bishop would come before your eyes, at the same time, you received from him this salutary lesson (Pe.205).

### **Intention:**

“Modern man believes more in witnesses than teachers. If he believes in teachers it is because they are witness.” (Paul VI). We pray unity and love within the Church, with our religious communities and within our families so that we may become prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Christ

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary





**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day EIGHT: In the Spirit of Sacrifice and Self denial

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Text from the Cardinal:

*You began by forsaking everything, (...) exchanging language, clothing and food, habits for those of people to whom you want to give the light. After having done all this, having been made all things to all men, according to the expression of the Apostle (...) you seek only one thing: life for these poor souls and for you, with the grace of God who will make you persevere in this work, through persecutions and a cruel death if necessary ... (I.42).*

*Poverty - Two Obligations: Not to be attached to wealth; not spend unnecessarily what we have ... 'My share of inheritance and my cup, it is you, Lord'. How is it missing in the Society? - Order and poverty, two necessary virtues, especially with poverty. What do we see in the houses, and even here in the Mother House! (I.316).*

*No doctrine is more certain than this one, and God has been pleased to remind us of it on every page of Holy Scripture: without obedience, there is no real virtue, no single grace of God, and no apostolate. On the contrary, with perfect obedience, all this is guaranteed to us. (I.59) if pride, self-esteem, or the spirit of rebellion should reign, it would be exposing oneself to death, for oneself and for others, and in this case, it would be better, a hundred times, that you never existed. So, among all the virtues I wish you, the virtue of obedience is the first and even the only truly indispensable virtue, because nothing can supply it and only it guarantees all the others ... (I.59).*

### Reflection:

Lavigerie was a well-disciplined man. He wanted to impart the same discipline on his missionaries inviting them for a life of self-denial, self-sacrifice and self-control. This is expressed in living fully the evangelical counsel of obedience, poverty, and chastity. Missionaries are constantly challenged to move beyond the pursuit of pleasure and security and comfort. There is no true discipleship without self-denial, self-control and self-sacrifice. It is in this line that we have to understand “the visa for martyrdom” that Lavigerie proposed to the novices before sending them into mission. throughout the training, he constantly came back to the necessity of being ready to suffer a thousand evils for the salvation of those without faith. The lifestyle in a distant land, exposed to so much risk and fatigue, requires a ‘more than ordinary zeal’. Lavigerie writes: The virtue proper to a Missionary is zeal. Zeal is the perfection of charity (I 52-53).





**Intention:**

We pray that we may be filled with a zeal that is more than ordinary, that is , an extraordinary zeal to serve God’s people in humility and self-sacrifice.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary

**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	





## Day NINE: Contemplation in Action

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Text from the Cardinal:**

*The Missionaries will be well convinced if they have faith: they know that no supernatural work can be done properly, and bear fruit, except by the grace of God. They also know that the grace of God is only obtained through prayer. Now, in our little Society, it must be said with regret and trembling, that we act and move around very much, but we pray too little. Undoubtedly, activity is indispensable to the Missionary, and it is not permissible for him to give as much time to prayer as do the members of penitential or contemplative Orders. However, at least it is necessary, while some and most fight in the plain, while others always raise supplicating hands on the mountain. (A2.174).*

*Prayer, the spirit of prayer, is the soul of the novitiate, and it can be said with truth that everything else depends on it. All Christians are commanded to pray and pray unceasingly. Now, how much more urgent is this obligation for those who have left the world to consecrate themselves to God and to prepare themselves to establish God's reign in souls? It can be said that prayer is the breathing of their hearts and that it is as necessary to novices as air is necessary to the life of their body. Now, just as their body would perish if it were deprived of air, so their souls would wither and march to their deaths if they were not refreshed and nourished by prayer. (I.241-242).*

### **Reflection:**

For Cardinal Lavignerie, prayer, the spirit of prayer, is the soul of the novitiate, and it can be said with truth that everything else depends on it. The productivity of his overflowing activity came from his union with God, which expressed itself in a daily spirituality that he safeguarded through thick and thin. Rising at four o'clock in the morning, he took a long time in prayer and celebrated the Eucharist before starting his working day at seven o'clock. He also took time for prayer in the evening. (R.476). He had an intense devotion to the Sacred Heart, to Mary, Our Lady of Africa, so dear to his heart, and to Saint Joseph. He was impressive with his deep contemplation when he presided over a liturgical celebration. He insisted that the Missionaries engaged in the depths of Africa always keep the Blessed Sacrament nearby and go there several times a day (I.25).





**Intention:**

“A Missionary is a contemplative in action.” (John Paul II). We pray that our apostolic life may flow from and be rooted in a life of prayer and communion with our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Our Father
- ❖ Three Hail Mary

**Prayer for the Jubilee:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the life  
you gave to our Founder, Cardinal Lavignerie  
and for the Missionary Charism that he passed on to us.  
Strengthen in us in the spirit of prayer and simplicity.  
Consolidate our community and intercultural life.  
Revive our dedication, enthusiasm and apostolic zeal.  
Deeply renew our missionary vocation in the service of the African world.  
We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Africa. Amen.

Martyrs of Africa	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Uganda	Pray for Us
Martyrs of Algeria	Pray for Us
Blessed Christian Chessel	Pray for Us
Blessed Jean Chevillard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Alain Dieulangard,	Pray for Us
Blessed Charles Deckers	Pray for Us
All Martyrs and Saints of Africa	Pray for Us
Our Lady of Africa	Pray for Us
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...	

