



**1868:** Felix Charmetant enters the novitiate. He will render great services to the Society. He left the Society in 1885 to devote himself entirely to the direction of the Oeuvre des Ecoles d'Orient.

**Letter to the Prefect of the Propaganda Fide  
(2 November 1887)**

Your Eminence,

As I had announced to your Eminence from the beginning, I had the Council of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Algiers decide to send to Rome a certain number of scholastics who will live in the procure of this small Society at Saint Nicholas of Lorraine and, under the direction of the Father Procurator, will be taking their theology courses and will then be qualified so that they can serve as directors or teachers in their own African seminaries, or those seminaries that the local Ordinaries would later want them to run.

Reverend Father Burtin, our Procurator General, will therefore have the honour of presenting to Your Eminence the first four scholastics we are sending today for the above-mentioned purpose. I would be very grateful to Your Eminence if you personally would indicate to our young fathers which courses would you prefer to see them take. As far as I am concerned, I would prefer the courses at the seminary of Propaganda Fide, since they depend on Propaganda Fide and will have to depend on it for the whole of their lives.

Nevertheless, if for any particular reason your Eminence thought otherwise, I ratify in advance your decision. Humbly kissing your hands, I have the honour of professing myself with deep respect to be, Eminence, your most humble and obedient servant.

**Letter to the Anti-slavery Committee of Cologne (4th November 1888)**

As long as one can find a large enough number of these unfortunate blacks for sale at the high price one finds today in the Muslim countries, that is to say, 750 to 1,000 Francs per slave, depending on distances, the slavers' greed will know how to overcome all the obstacles and continue this shameful trafficking in human beings. It is, in effect, an established economic law that merchandise (and, in slavery, man is nothing more than merchandise) is offered when there is a demand for it. If, then, one continues to demand negroes from Africa, she will continue to provide them... No people (European or other) will be capable on its own of stopping the trafficking by force, even in just the regions dependent on it. Suppressed on one side, it will be reborn on the other. If, on the contrary, the Muslim countries no longer ask to buy blacks, the interior trafficking will fall of its own accord. Now, to overcome the resistance, open or hidden, of the Muslim governments, the common agreement of all the Powers interested today in the civilization of the various regions of Africa, that is to say, of your Germany (and the other Powers) is indispensable. If the nations are divided, nothing satisfying or complete will be achieved and all the sacrifices made will be inefficacious. I insist, then, on the agreement of all the Christian peoples represented in Africa at this time.

