



1824: marriage of Lavigerie's parents, Léon Philippe and Laure Louise in the Church of St Esprit, Bayonne.

1882: Foundation of the Zanzibar Procure.

1888: Letter to the anti-slavery committee in Cologne

1891: Lavigerie proposes Léon Livinhac as his coadjutor for the diocese of Tunis.

Letter to the Holy Father (4 November 1891)

Most Holy Father,

Humbly prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, I dared to inform you, a few days ago, that my state of health had seriously deteriorated, that I had asked for and received the sacrament of Extreme Unction and that I thought it was my duty to express to you the supreme homage of my heartfelt filial affection and that of my obedience and my devotion which know no limits.

I have already received, Most Holy Father, the telegram by means of which His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla has deigned to make known to me the sentiments of Your Holiness with regard to my humble person. Yet, since God would seem to leave me still a few days of life, I have another favour to beg of the Holy See. I have sought indeed to put in good order all the matters which depended on the authority that I had received from Your Beatitude, whether in the dioceses of Algeria or in the other missions of Africa that have been put under my jurisdiction. Only one of these episcopal circumscriptions would seem to me to be in a difficult situation, and I have the special duty, before dying, to call this matter to the benevolent attention of the Holy See, and that of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide in particular.

Tunisia, not being as yet French territory, and consequently not belonging to the areas subject to the application of the Concordat of 1802, there is nothing decided in advance to provide after my death for the exercise of jurisdiction. This could be the cause of great embarrassment on the one hand, the French government and the Tunisian government could question the right of Your Holiness to

appoint freely a new Archbishop. On the other hand, they could present someone who might be less than desirable for such an important office. It would seem to me, Most Holy Father, that the simplest thing would be for me to ask our government in advance for the appointment of a coadjutor and then to request your Holiness, as I do today, if there is still time, to deign to give me a coadjutor with the right of succession. In this way everything would be arranged without difficulty from one side or the other.

So, Most Holy Father, I began to take steps several months ago by approaching Mr Massicault, the Resident Minister of France in Tunisia. The most naturally indicated person to be my successor in Carthage is Mgr Livinhac, bishop of Pacando, former Vicar Apostolic of Nyanza, and already elected as my General Assistant by the Chapter of the Society of Missionaries during the course of last year, 1890. Your Holiness will doubtless remember that you met him in Rome, at the time of my last journey. He had just returned from Nyanza where he had confessed the Faith and had in advance accepted martyrdom. I then designated him myself as the future Superior of the Society of Missionaries of Algiers after my death.

