



1892: Requiem Mass at the cathedral of Tunis. Lavigerie's body was transported to Carthage after mass.

Annual report to the Cardinal of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide (1st December 1869)

The problems we need to overcome to achieve this result are of two types. The first comes from the Government of Algeria, which, as I already stated, would not dare to do anything openly against us, but which still harbours an unspoken but very real hostility towards us. It tries to discredit our mission centres, which erodes trust and slows the upsurge of charity. The second item, more distressing and serious (I only confide them to Your Eminence with the greatest distaste) stem from the attitude adopted from the outset of all our affairs by my two suffragans – in particular the Bishop of Constantine. I will take the opportunity to disclose this sad situation to Your Eminence by word of mouth. Prudence and charity prevent me from doing so here.

Nevertheless, faced with such obstacles, I will need the support of the S.C. of Propaganda and its Most Eminent Prefect to have the funds I need: 1) From the Propagation of the Faith and from the Holy Childhood: I received 15,000 Frs for the mission, But the Holy Childhood gave me absolutely nothing, whereas I am raising twelve non-Christian children, entirely at my cost. I feel sure that a single word from Your Eminence to this body would guarantee us a grant. 2) Above all from the Holy Father, from whom I would like to receive a Papal Brief of encouragement and satisfaction for all those who have already helped us so generously and who could continue to help us. I feel confident that this will be enough to guarantee the funds we need. I am well aware of the great kindness of Your Eminence to hope that you will be pleased to receive my request.

Letter to the Superiors of the Spiritan Fathers in Zanzibar (12th December 1880)

Most Reverend Father,

I have just received from Father Guillet, the superior of our last caravan of Missionaries, a telegram to which I am replying at this very moment and which leads me to fear that some difficulty may have arisen between you or at least that you may have been upset by our project to establish a mission post

between the coast and Tabora, on the edge of the Ugogo.

It is the need to ensure the supply of provisions and maintaining links with Lake Nyanza and Lake Tanganika and our wish to make these journeys less dangerous for our missionaries that has made us choose this post which is really a hospital station. But I fear you have considered this a violation of your rights. If this were so, I would never forgive myself, since you have shown such fraternal and friendly charity towards our Fathers that it would be inexcusable to encroach even minutely upon your territory.

You are surely unaware that the Holy See has just created two new pro-vicariates apostolic, one of Nyanza and the other of Tanganika. This latter has for its western limit a line which goes from Mount Kenya, crosses the Ugogo, cutting it in half, and ends to the north of Lake Nyassa. There can be no doubt at all that the western edge of the Ugogo, where we wish to set up a post, and, even more so, Tabora belong to us.

Enclosed, I send you the text of the recent Decree of the Propaganda which leaves no doubt about this. But, most Reverend Father, God forbid that we should hinder your projects in any way. If you wish to set up missions in the new vicariates which have been entrusted to us, we give you herewith full permission to do this, wanting only one thing, to live with you in the love of Our Lord, to praise you for your apostolic successes and to show our deep gratitude to you.

