

### Letter to the Superior General on the status of the armed auxiliaries (8th December 1883)

Very dear Father,

As I told you, I officially asked Fathers Viven and Deguerry for their opinions concerning the auxiliaries. I send you their answer. The majority of the Council having voted in this way, I approve its opinion to create perpetual auxiliaries who would form a special section of armed religious among the Brothers for the protection of the missions among the barbarians of Equatorial Africa. What I would ask you now is that you prepare and discuss in Council, at your earliest convenience, a rule for these new Brothers, combining it with the present rule for Brothers which will remain, of course, as it is for ordinary Brothers. From this rule, you must borrow everything that is compatible with the special duties for the armed Brothers. For the special duties of the armed religious, you can find some points and some useful ideas in the rules of the ancient military orders. Include in this a great spirit of faith.

### Letter to Father Bridoux (8 December 1886)

My dear Father,

It is only today that I received your letter of 3rd December, and I hasten to reply to it, because it raises a rather delicate question and it is important that it be settled the first time it comes up. I wish gradually to give up exercising my authority as Superior of the Society, but I also wish to retain everything that relates to my jurisdiction and my powers as Bishop. In accordance with this dual point of view, it follows that I have asked Father Deguerry no longer to submit to me the decisions and the minutes of the Council, except in those cases where something would affect me personally. Now Ordinations and calls to Ordinations fall within the episcopal jurisdiction properly speaking, and consequently, before taking any decision, I ask to see the notes on the scholastics provided by your council of Saint-Louis. Please be so good as to send them to me, just as you sent them to the Council of the Society, so that I can see if I have any canonical objection to make. As soon as I have them, I will give you my answer by telegraph and you can send to Constantine these young men, called by you and by the Council, once you yourself have made them sit their examination in view of Ordination. You will also notify the Council of the Society by sending this letter to them, so that it can be used as a general rule in similar cases.

