



1860: Lavigerie reports to the pope on his mission to the Middle East. The pope received him with reluctance because of accusations of collaboration with the French government.

1867: Foundation of the first orphanage in Bouzareah.

1881: The 2nd caravan of missionaries to Timbuktu set out without Lavigerie's authorization.

1890: Inauguration of the work of the pioneers (Armed Brothers) of the Sahara. Father Hacquard is the Superior.

Letter to Bishop Livinhac in Uganda (12 December 1886)

You will see, moreover, from the ordinance that this is only a change of titles and that basically the pro-vicars are simply your vicars and therefore your subordinates. Father Coulbois, in fact, has been appointed pro-vicar of Upper Congo and Father Ludovic Girault pro-vicar of Unyanyembe, but both remain under the direct jurisdiction of one of the two Apostolic Vicars of Tanganyika and Nyanza, so that the first is the substitute for the pro-vicariate of Upper Congo, and the second for the vicariate of Unyanyembe and that both of you keep, with regard to these territories thus separated into pro-vicariates and on the missionaries who are there, the same essential rights and higher jurisdiction as before.

In this way, and [as seen from] outside, mainly in the eyes of Propaganda Fide, we have as in the past four vicariates or pro-vicariates, but from within, in fact, the two pro-vicars are simply your representatives and must receive from me, through you as intermediaries, all their faculties and their directives. It must be understood, of course, that my ordinance should not be published in newspapers, magazines or mission bulletins, but only notified to the missionaries and kept secret by them. At the same time it should be understood, to maintain good order, that the Apostolic Vicars, while continuing to have the responsi-

bility for the pro-vicariates, should not give orders directly, by themselves, but only through the pro-vicars. Finally, the reports addressed to the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood must be made by the pro-vicars themselves with regard to their territories. Otherwise, these institutions would withdraw their allocations.

I am not talking about the division of existing mission posts or the creation of new ones. It is up to the two bishops to deal with this, each one for his double mission, so that their own territory (oeuvre) always remains the most important. It will surely be possible, in the course of next year, to send new missionaries for this purpose.

There, dear Monsignor, you have the extent of the important communications I wanted to convey to you today. Lest this letter go astray, I have a duplicate of it which I am sending to Father Jamet so that he may forward it to you by a different caravan from the one to which he will entrust this one.

It remains for me, dear Monsignor, to express to you my tenderly devoted sentiments in Our Lord and to tell you that I ask God wholeheartedly for you all that he knows, and all that you also know yourself, to be necessary for you. Please tell all your missionaries that they are constantly present in my mind; that at heart I am often among them and with each one of them and that I bless them all.

