



1886: A new decree erected the Provicariate of Tanganika into an Apostolic Vicariate and created the Provicariates of Unyanyembe and Upper Congo. From then on, there were three missions in Lake Tanganyika entrusted to the Missionaries of Africa: the Apostolic Vicariate of Tanganika, the Provicariate of Upper Congo, and the Provicariate of Unyanyembe.

1891: Lavigerie's sister, Louise, visits him while he is ill.

Letter to Archbishop Bourret (30th December 1876)

My very dear Lord and Friend,

I send you my warmest wishes for the year that is dawning and my affectionate gratitude for your goodness towards my children. Now that the Diocese of Blois is vacant, it would solve the situation for Archbishop Soubiranne. I wrote to Versailles about it, but I am far away, and I think you need to be near at hand to succeed. It is all the more necessary to take a stand on a position for the Archbishop of Sébaste that it, such as it is, as he holds from me, will also be out of his grasp by the force of circumstances.

I am indeed on the edge of taking a decision, which has become necessary on account of my ongoing poor state of health and the continuing development of the Mission. I can no longer govern the diocese alone and extend the Works of the Delegation. I have to choose in this situation, but I cannot do so without dishonouring myself by abandoning the Works I founded and the soldiers I have led into battle. I will therefore completely abandon my Archdiocese and will remain Apostolic Delegate, probably

choosing my residence at St Louis de Carthage, as it belongs to us. I will not be the first bishop to make himself a missionary, and if there is a sacrifice to be made, I will do so with joy, because the world as it is going fills me with horror. Episcopal responsibility in these sad times, as well as the miserable diocesan clergy of Algeria, has become unbearable. Moreover, if I am taken for a fool, I will be in good company, beginning with St. Paul, and in any case, I will not be seen as ambitious.

I know well enough your generosity of heart, my dear Lord, to know that you will approve of me, as does Archbishop Maret to whom I have also disclosed this plan. I am going to write to our Holy Father the Pope, though I am certain of his assent in advance. I will ask for Archbishop Robert as my successor. Let all this be between us for the time being, until the Holy Father has spoken.

