



**1844:** Spiritual reading at St Sulpice Seminary by a missionary bishop, Mgr Vérrolles, Apostolic Vicar of Manchuria. Lavigerie was fascinated.

**1867:** Lavigerie arrives in Algiers.

**1873:** Inauguration of the first Christian village

**1875:** Lavigerie receives custody of the church of St Louis de Carthage.

**1883:** Lavigerie is in Paris until July 10. He met many personalities.

**1886:** Lavigerie goes to Hippo for the fifteenth centenary of St. Augustine.

**1890:** Consecration of the Basilica of Carthage

**1892:** Foundation of Villa Mariya (Northern Nyanza). The sisters moved there in 1900.

#### **Letter to Father Delattre, fundraiser in North America (8th July 1875)**

My dear Child,

I have had to recall Rev. Fr. Charmetant to France, as I need to employ him this summer for the important task of founding our site at St Louis de Carthage, Tunisia. The Holy See and the French Government have just given it to us. It is the location marking the exact spot of the death of St Louis, King. As for you and Father Leroy, you will remain in America, so as to complete fundraising in North America. You will follow the plan you agreed with Father Charmetant, except for the changes of detail that the circumstances will dictate. For this, I trust the judgement of Father Leroy and your zeal.

My dear children, we are all very grateful to you for all you are doing for the enterprise. The Society will never forget you and neither will I. By experience, I know all that fundraising can cause in terms of hardship, worry, and humiliations and I can but thank you all the more for your determination. This year, your fundraising in America will be all the more valuable since France will not be able to give us anything. The country has just been put drastically to the test by floods that have ravaged the midi; appeals are being made everywhere for the victims. There is therefore no room for us in all that. Nonetheless, expenses are increasing in Africa with the works, and we need to provide for everything. Therefore, be of good cheer, my dear children, and with my congratulations for the past, accept my blessings for the future. You need to plan your return to France for the second half of September to arrive at the retreat and the Chapter taking place in

early October.

#### **Letter to the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda (16 February 1876)**

The Society of our Missionaries has developed to such an extent that it will soon be cramped in Algeria and the countries currently entrusted to it. I would ask Your Eminence to reserve the new Missions to found in North Africa, in the Fezzan, for example, exclusively to them. Cardinal Barnabo had promised them to me if the Fathers Minor of Tripoli were not to go there, and into Morocco.

I hear tell that the Society of African Missions of Lyons is seeking them. It would be very unfortunate to place these two Societies of Missionaries beside one another. They have a different spirit and method; they would collide, and soon there would be scandalous divisions. The Fathers of Lyons were founded for South Africa.

Those of Algiers were established in the North, their natural preserve. I implore Your Eminence to disallow them to take it. The Missionaries of Lyons already tried to set themselves up at Oran in Algeria. They did not succeed. I had to send them away a few months ago after observing some very regrettable events that the bearer of this letter will be able to communicate to you. He is Father Charmetant, Procurator General of the Society of Missionaries of Algiers. I venture to recommend him to your kind benevolence.

