



1869: The first White Sisters candidates arrive in Algiers.

1871: Brother Tassy, General Bursar, left the Society of Missionaries of Africa.

Letter to the Sisters of Our Lady of Africa (8th September 1882)

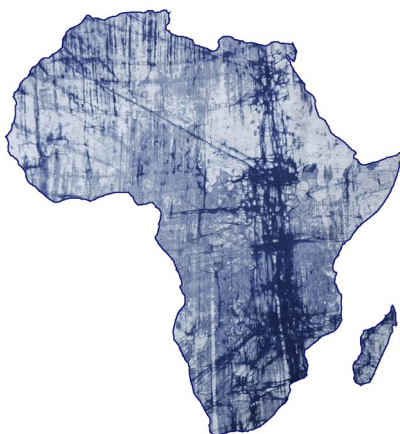
Dearest Daughters,

You have asked us on several occasions to promulgate and confirm by our authority the Rules which your Society must follow henceforth. We think that, after several years of trial, we ought to agree to this legitimate wish. Therefore, until the apostolic Holy See determines otherwise, we have ordered and we order the following:

Article I – The Rule the terms of which follow is, from this day on, canonically promulgated and approved by us, to the exclusion of any other, for the community of the Teaching and Nursing Sisters whose mother-house is situated at la Bouzaréah, near Kouba.

Article II – The Mother superior general assisted by her Council is responsible for carrying out this order.

Given in Algiers at Notre Dame d’Afrique, on the 8th day of September 1882, on the feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Plans for religious institutions to be founded in Algeria (9th September 1867)

The Archbishop of Algiers believes it would be very beneficial for Algeria to found two special religious Orders, one of men and the other of women. Their aim would be agriculture and the practice of charity towards the poor and the sick. It could thus provide the same service as the Trappists, with a different and more flexible rule that would enable them to participate in all the needs of colonisation. This plan had already been brought forward several times. Mr. Troplong, President of the Senate, officially took it under his patronage. It always failed, because the former Bishop of Algiers did not believe he had to encourage it and that the diocesan authority alone may found, oversee and direct such an undertaking.

The Archbishop of Algiers has quite a different outlook. He already has at hand all the needs in personnel required to begin this undertaking; however, the material resources are lacking. He has recourse to His Majesty the Emperor to request him, if it were possible, to help in the carrying out of this idea. This would be from funds provided by the Société Algérienne, or of funding from the Ministry of War. To begin with, it would be enough to build two Mother Houses that would be used as novitiates and grant them a capital sum of three hundred thousand francs, for the buildings. Then, twenty thousand francs per year for ten years for each community - let us say - forty thousand francs per year in total. However, this would be on condition that they could be assigned suitable plots of land that the State would grant them directly or indirectly, as was done for the Trappists.

As regards subsequent foundations, both Orders would take complete charge of them, dealing with the Société Algérienne, which would be in their interest to call on them for all the centres they wish to establish. There, they would find at one and the same time an example for the colonists, assistance for the sick and the poor. Moreover, they would even have an on-the-spot safeguard in the community of men who would be organised militarily, according to their Constitutions, in case of a state of emergency caused by the Arabs.