



### Letter to Father Louail, Provincial of Europe (11 April 1889)

My Dear Father,

Reverend Father Bresson, who will hand over this letter to you, will explain to you that the council of the Society and I myself have decided to send him on a special mission to Zanzibar. He will shortly be leaving for this difficult post. This will leave vacant the position of superior in Woluwé.

We have decided not to appoint a replacement for him, but to grant to you, in your capacity as Provincial, the special authority of superior of the two houses in Lille and Woluwé. In each of these houses, when you are absent, your place will be taken by two directors, Father Engels in Woluwé and Father Vera or Father Ragnet (the choice is yours) in Lille. It is up to you alone to determine how much time you must spend in each of these houses. We have full confidence in your wisdom, your conscientiousness, and your ability, and we know that you will only act for the best.

You will accordingly find yourself responsible for the appeals in Belgium, and I hope that, for the good of the missionary work, you will know how to make use of a field so fertile in charity and almsgiving. It will perhaps be necessary to provide you with an extra person for making the appeals, but in any case you, with your persuasive language and your perseverance, will always be doing most of the work and with the best results. The time [for these appeals] is most ripe on account of the enthusiasm among Catholics for the question of slavery.

You will say everywhere, and you will be telling the truth, that up to now it is your society that has been committed and is committing itself with the greatest zeal and efficiency to resolving this formidable question. You will say that the money given will be employed under my special direction. Consequently, it will be used in the very best way, a way assuredly blessed by God, since there will be no admixture of masonic and liberal influence as has unfortunately occurred in Belgium.

Do not hesitate to tell Catholics how much I deplore that influence which makes the King refrain from employing the money given to him by the best of Christians for a work which is purely Christian [in nature]. His Congo is in the hands of Free Masons, and truly if it continues in this way it will not be possible, in conscience, to give the money to the Institution in Belgium (l'Oeuvre de Belgique). Do not be afraid to say that to all the true Catholics you will

meet along the way. For the sake of prudence, this should not be said out loud, but it is necessary to enlighten all those who can be enlightened without inconvenience. Say this, my child, and say that you have copied from what I have written, without however handing over the present letter to anyone, because it could be put to bad use in relation to His Majesty.

Farewell, my dear child, may God bless the enlargement of your ministry in which you will see, on our part, an enlargement of trust and, on the part of God, an increase in the number of blessings.

### Letter to Father Burtin (23 April 1890)

My Dear Father,

I have received from several of your confreres a request to attend the consecration of the cathedral in Carthage which is to take place, with great solemnity, next 15 May, Ascension Thursday. With regard to this I have decided to adopt a general measure and to give permission, as I do by the present letter, to all the Fathers in residence with you who are able to absent themselves easily and to undertake the journey, to participate in the ceremonies. I would ask you to inform them of this and to request of them only to let Fr Bazin know, by sending a word or a telegram, of their intention to come so that everything can be prepared for their reception. I am happy, my dear Father, at the thought that in this way I may see some of you again, and while blessing you from afar I beg of you to be assured that I remain. The arrival of a large number of Fathers would seem even more desirable since, in fact, I have given them the cathedral in Carthage through forming its chapter exclusively of Missionaries.

