



1861: Lavigerie receives the cross of the Legion of Honor of France.

1871: Lavigerie is an unsuccessful candidate in the legislative elections in France.

1874: Lavigerie sent Brother Marie to Spain to buy mules for the farm in Maison-Carrée.

1878: Decree of the Dicastery for Evangelization authorizing the mission at St. Anne of Jerusalem.

1879: Father Richard brings to Laghouat the remains of the 3 missionaries massacred at El-Meksa.

Pontifical Rescript defining the limits of the Apostolic Vicariate of the Sahara (8 February 1891)

At the request of His Eminence Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers and of Carthage, the Apostolic Vicariate of the Sahara having been erected, the Holy Father, at the Audience granted on 14 December 1890, has provided for its good administration through appointing the same Eminent Cardinal as Apostolic Administrator, either to govern the territory himself or to substitute for himself an ecclesiastic worthy to take on this responsibility. Furthermore, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII, for the good of the souls entrusted to his care, grants him the faculty of using, in the Vicariate of the Sahara Desert, the powers he enjoys as Archbishop of Algiers, and to delegate these to his substitute, wholly or in part, except for those which require episcopal character.

In effect, the Apostolic Prefecture of the Sahara had been erected by a decree dated 6 August 1868. Since this time, with the help of the grace of God, through the zeal of the Eminent Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers, and through the efforts of the missionaries he sent there, a number of the inhabitants of this region who were living in darkness and in the shadow of death have come to the light of the True Faith. Accordingly, the same Eminent Cardinal addressed a supplication to the Sacred Congregation for Propaganda Fide requesting that the afore-mentioned Prefecture should be raised to the level of Apostolic Vicariate. Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, in his Audience of 16 November 1890, on the basis of the report presented by the Very Reverend Dominique Jacobini, Secretary of the same Sacred Congregation, welcomed favourably the supplication and deigned to erect the Prefecture of the Sahara as an Apostolic Vicariate.

This Vicariate comprises the whole of the region: extending northwards to the boundaries of the missions of Tunis, Tripoli, Morocco, and the province of Algiers; southwards to the mission of Niger and the mountains of Kong, to the 10th degree of latitude; eastwards to the Fezzan exclusively and to the south of the Fezzan from the 15th degree of longitude in a straight line to the northern boundary of the mission of Niger, to the 12th degree of longitude; finally westwards to the [Atlantic] Ocean and the mission of Senegal.

Letter from Rome to Father Finateu in Algiers (9th February 1870)

Dear Child in the Lord,

I counted on seeing you at Saint Eugène and that is why I waited until now to reply to your letter to tell you that I expect to have news of Saint Eugène, the children and your good self every fortnight. Now that my absence is to be prolonged, I insist on it all the more. I understand very well that you are overworked, but it is our lot in our enterprises. For this year above all, I only see one remedy for our ills and that is patience and dedication. I will pray for you, dear Son and I ask you to pray for me, as I need prayer too. My heart is in Algeria, but my overriding duty detains me in Rome. Tell your dear children that I often think of them and that I bless them with the sincere tenderness of a father, hoping they will grow in wisdom, above all in piety and also in knowledge. I saw their little companions at Marseille, and I was very pleased. Farewell, dear Son, my best wishes to Fr. Bouland and to Brother Deguerry. I commend myself to their prayers; I am all yours in Christ. I informed Father Charmetant that the geese, ducks and chickens at Saint Eugène are to be transferred to Maison-Carrée. Tell him to do so as soon as possible and to watch over the ducks and geese constantly. Otherwise, they will escape and the hunters will shoot them down.

