



1879: Foundation of Rubaga (Uganda). Lourdel and Amans arrived on February 17th. Livinhac and Girault arrived on 25 June. The station was abandoned 3 times: from 8 November 1882 to 14 July 1885 (pagan persecution); from 18 October 1888 to 5 October 1889 (Muslim persecution); from 24 January to 29 March 1892 (Protestant persecution). The sisters moved there in September 1899.

Lettre au Cardinal Préfet de la Propagande (16 February 1876)

I repeat, Your Eminence, that we owe all our success to our method: to act with charity, before beginning to preach openly. Nevertheless, we make an exception for the children we can take in, if they are abandoned, or that we can purchase if they are enslaved. These we would right away and fervently teach the Christian Truths, as these are the true future apostles of the African interior. We should not conceal the fact that in fact all our Missionaries will rapidly die there in a climate so different from their own. Therefore, they will be but the initiators. Those who will live with the native peoples and stir them up, finishing by converting them will be the children we are raising from these same countries. Even now, a certain number will be ready to join battle in two or three years from now. Other younger ones will be trained and in all we shall thus have over eighty Arabs, Kabyles, Sahraouis and Negros whom we are educating in two establishments that are proper seminaries.

The Sisters do for the girls what the Fathers do for the boys, with the difference, however, that Muslim custom does not allow the active participation of native women. They will only serve in hospitals specially intended for Muslims, and particularly for women. We have already opened one, which belongs entirely to us and to which the sick flock.

Your Eminence, there you have an overall view of what we have undertaken, what we pursue. We have adopted a lengthier method, which will no doubt require years before bearing visible fruits, in the conversion of the people. However, for me, it is the only truly reasonable, truly effective means. Any other will fail as much in the present as in the future.

Letter to the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda Fide (17 February 1885)

Eminence,

It was only yesterday that I received your Eminence's letter, dated 17 January, regarding the rescript which is to give a definite decision regarding the limits of the new Archdiocese of Carthage. Your Eminence has kindly requested from me indications which will be useful in drawing up this rescript. These indications can be summed up in a single sentence in which everything else is, without any possible doubt, completely and clearly contained: the territory to be accorded to the Archdiocese of Carthage, recently erected by His Holiness, is purely and simply that of the present Apostolic Vicariate of Tunis, as it exists and acts. Now this Vicariate comprises exactly the entire kingdom of Tunis, having the same limits as this kingdom. The pontifical rescript should therefore limit itself to suppressing the Apostolic Vicariate of Tunis and transferring its territory, together with the clergy, the faithful, the institutes and all the elements of which it is composed, to the Archdiocese of Carthage. I would add simply that, with regard to the future, it would be useful to mention, as has already been done in the Bull *Materna Ecclesiae caritas*, the right expressly reserved to the Holy See of later dividing such a vast territory in order to erect separate dioceses. That, Eminence, is all it seems to me useful and necessary to say regarding the rescript in question. I request of your Eminence kindly to give the necessary instructions so that the letters of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide addressed to me as Archbishop of Carthage, mention after the name Carthagine that of Tunisia, otherwise they are sent to Carthagena, in Spain, and they reach me only after a month.

