



1868: Lavigerie met with the Superior General of the Jesuits in Rome and asked for the contribution of the Jesuits for the foundation of three Missionary Societies.

1868: Lavigerie sends a second letter to the pope asking for the creation of a delegation of the Sahara and Sudan. The Pope accepts.

Foundation of three Missionary Societies and the contribution of the Jesuit Fathers (28th July 1868)

Most Reverend Father,

Further to our agreements this morning, I wish to recall in a few words the various requests that I had the honour of addressing to you: 1. For the Arab mission and especially the one for the Sahara, the setting up of a little novitiate for a society of diocesan priests, directed by Fathers Creusat and Ducat, chaplains at the catechumenate at Ben-Aknoun; the foundation of a mission post in waiting at Laghouat, with at least two or three Fathers for the time being. 2. The opening of a house of Spanish Jesuits at Algiers. This house, set up at Spain's expense, must be completely distinct and separate from the one of French Jesuits. 3. When the time comes, two Fathers will direct the novitiates of two farming Congregations, one of Brothers and the other of Sisters. I added the wish to establish a parish at the Algiers residence, but I bow to your observations and give it up, as well as the college, since we must.

Second letter to the Holy See to request the creation of a Delegation of the Sahara and of the (French) Sudan (28th July 1868)

Your Eminence,

Last July, I had the honour of presenting to your Eminence a request to establish a new mission in the Sahara Desert in Africa. In my view, this mission should be a Prefecture Apostolic, provisionally entrusted to the Archbishop of Algiers, as delegated by the Holy See.

Your Eminence was good enough to reply that two problems seemed to you to oppose the immediate setting up of this mission. The first was the fear of going against the rights or the intentions of the

French government in a country belonging to it. The second was the request made by the Observantine Fathers of Tripoli to establish a mission in the desert.

I was able to inform you since then, Your Eminence, that these two problems no longer exist. The first, because the mission to be founded is completely outside the boundaries of French possessions and consequently the French government has nothing to do with it. The second is due to the fact that the Observantine Fathers have given up their plans.

Since these problems no longer exist, Your Eminence, I would venture to renew my request and earnestly ask you to grant me the powers needed to found a new mission in the Sahara under the title of Prefecture Apostolic. It would have the following territorial boundaries, which are indicated in black ink on the enclosed geographical map. 1) To the North, the borders of Morocco, Algeria with its three dioceses, Tunisia, the Mission of Tripoli; 2) to the South, the borders of Senegal and Guinea till the mountains of Kong, towards 10 degrees latitude; 3) to the West, the Atlantic Ocean; 4) to the East, in a line going from the eastern borders of Fezzan to 17 degrees latitude, to link up with the borders of Guinea, towards 5 degrees.

This Prefecture Apostolic thus constituted outside any French territory would be constituted as the one that was created on the East Coast of Africa in favour of the Bishop of Bourbon (former name of the Island of Reunion), (Ed.) and like it, provisionally entrusted to the Archbishop of Algiers.

