



**1871:** Lavigerie drafted a second edition of the Constitutions of the Society of Missionaries of Africa. It repeals points that had been disputed by missionaries and that caused their departure from the Society. The missionary fathers are not religious but secular priests united by the bonds of the same government.

**1886:** The Dicastery for Evangelization withdraws the 2 missions in the Upper Congo from the Missionaries of Africa and assigns them to the Fathers of Scheut. The Missionaries of Africa keep a relatively small territory west of Lake Tanganyika.

#### **Promulgation of the 'Decretum laudis' for the Society by the Holy See (5th October 1879).**

Thus, as in the past, 'as long as Archbishop Lavigerie lives, the Society is placed by a special decree of the Holy See, under his jurisdiction, and it is governed under the authority of this Prelate. The decisions and ordinances of the General Chapter must be submitted to Archbishop Lavigerie for ratification. Finally, the resolutions, elections and deliberations made by the Council and by the Chapter must be submitted to Archbishop Lavigerie as long as he lives.'

Finally, the Sacred Congregation desired that the last sentences of the Oath should be better specified than they were originally, so that they gave rise to no scruple in appearing to extend Missionary obligations in an indefinite manner; and it indicated some points where the text of the Rule should also be more clearly explained. These changes are reduced, moreover, to very few things, as you will see in the text of the Rule, which I now definitively fix next to this circular.

As I should, in all of this I have sacrificed my own ideas to the wishes of the Holy See. You will do the same, my dear children, as your Rule prescribes it by one of its former dispositions. You will strive above all to testify, out of fidelity, to observe all the points, of your filial respect for the Vicar of Jesus

Christ, since they are now vested in His sovereign authority. All that remains for me to do is to urge Our Lord Jesus Christ, Model and Leader of the Apostles, to pour out his blessings upon you and to bring abundant fruits of grace and salvation to your Work.

To these causes, and invoking the Holy Name of God, We have ordered and ordained the following:

Art.1 - Issued by these presents the Rescript of the Holy and Apostolic See, relating to the Society of the Missions of Africa of Algiers, and thus conceived: *Laudatur institutum et communicentur animadversiones et maneat tanquam superior delegatus R.P.D. Karolus-Martialis Archiepiscopus Lavigerie.*

Art. 2 - The text of the Rules is henceforward obligatory only for the said Society, modified by us, in accordance with the indications of the Holy and Apostolic See and annexed to this Order.

