



1868: Opening of the novitiate at the Rostan House: 7 novice clerics and 3 novice brothers. It was called the "Seminary of the Sahara and Sudan" under the direction of Fr. Vincent, S.J.

1871: Opening of the 3rd novitiate of the Missionaries of Africa in Maison-Carrée.

1871: Opening of the 1st scholasticate in Maison-Carrée.

1875: 2nd General Chapter for the election of 2 new assistants: Toulotte and Pascal.

Guidelines for the first Novitiate (1868)

Dear Father, may the blessing of God be upon you. Form apostles and follow exactly the directives of the Company's Novitiate, with one difference in that you give more time for studies. Saints! I want Saints! Plunge them completely into the mould of Saint Ignatius. Let them be like a corpse in your hands that lets itself be carried anywhere and manipulated at will. Or again, let them be like a walking-stick in the hand of an old person to be of service wherever and whenever it is required.

Circular Letter (27 October 1870)

Reverend Gentlemen and dear co-workers, you already know, in the midst of the misfortunes of our homeland the deplorable and lamentable situation of our Sovereign Pontiff, despoiled of all that remained of his States. These were, as our venerable French language tells us, the patrimony of the Church, i.e., the common property of the Catholic people. Pius IX is captive in his own palace. He can only have relations with the rest of the Christian world if his jailers allow it, for they could forbid it to him tomorrow.

In these extreme circumstances, our duty is to have recourse to prayer; there lies our almighty weapon, which will deliver Peter, the first of the Pontiffs, who was Herod's prisoner when the whole Church prayed for him. Let us pray, Gentlemen, for the triumph of justice, of powerlessness, of this triple majesty of the High Priesthood, of virtue and of his age, all simultaneously oppressed in Pius IX. Let us pray for the persecuted and oppressed Church itself, in the person of its chief. Let us pray for European society, which has fallen so low, alas! Not a single official protest has been raised from it against these latest attacks. What am I saying! Did they not see them being prepared one day some fifteen years ago?

Consequently, from the Sunday following receipt of this letter and until the liberation of the Sovereign Pontiff, we will chant the 'Miserere', followed by the versicle 'Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Pius' and the 'Prayer for the Pope' at Benediction.

