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Rome, 27 February 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Greetings of peace.

Next year will mark the 2nd centenary of the birth of our founder, Cardinal Charles Lavigerie. With this communication we would like to share with you our wish to commemorate this significant event for our large missionary family.

We want to take the opportunity of this anniversary to celebrate what we have chosen to call "a year with Cardinal Lavigerie". This year will officially begin on 31 October 2024 and end on 31 October 2025. We have just set up a committee to coordinate the organisation of the commemorations that will take place in the various countries where we are present. This committee is made up of the following members: Fathers Serge Traoré and Innocent Maganya; Sisters Cécile Dilé and Béatrice Badini.

We believe that the bicentenary of the birth of our Founder in Bayonne is an occasion not to be missed! It is an opportunity for us to:

- Strengthen the bond between MSOLA and M.Afr;
- Identify the relevant elements of our Founder's legacy for our time;
- To allow all the members of our institutes to express how our Founder is a source of inspiration for responding to the missionary call and bearing witness in today's world;
- To ask ourselves what would be our Founder's prophetic stand in today's world;
- To share with lay people the inspiration we find in the life and work of our Founder;
- To have a social impact and reinvigorate missionary animation.

Your ideas and proposals for organising this event are welcome and valued. A common email address will be communicated to you in the near future so that you can send these ideas.

In this Lenten season, let us remain in prayerful communion as we walk with the suffering Jesus.

Fr. Stanley Lubungo Superior General

Sr. Angela Kapitingana Superior General