



1868: Deguerry and Bouland entered the novitiate.

1879: A Father and 2 Brothers are bitten by the guard dog of St Martial estate, which was rabid. Thanks to an energetic treatment, the "hoang-nan" the missionaries are saved.

Letter to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Propaganda (16th November 1880)

Your Eminence,

I have waited until the end of your holidays before acknowledging receipt from Your Eminence of the decree by which you have deigned to raise the two missions of Nyanza and Tanganika to the status of apostolic pro-vicariates and to create the new missions of northern Upper Congo and southern Upper Congo, to be entrusted to our Mission Society. I can but be deeply grateful for this new token of confidence on the part of the Holy See and I assure Your Eminence that my missionaries and I shall do all we can to justify it.

In keeping with the wishes of the Sacred Congregation, I have the honour to name the two Fathers whom I consider most suitable for running the two pro-vicariates which have just been established. For the vicariate of Nyanza, I think it should be entrusted to Father Léon Livinhac, who is already superior at that mission. Before leaving for Equatorial Africa, Father Livinhac was elected superior by his confreres. Although he is still young, since he was born in the diocese of Rodez in 1846 and so is only in his 35th year, he is a man of great wisdom and holiness.

For the pro-vicariate of Tanganika, please entrust this to the care of Reverend Father François Deguerry, while leaving its administration for the time being in the hands of Reverend Father Alexandre Guillet who is currently the superior at that mission. Under my authority, Father Deguerry has fulfilled the responsibility of being the Superior General of our Society of Missionaries for six years. At the last elections which took place at the end of September, he refused completely to continue with this responsibility and so was replaced by another priest, Reverend Father Charbonnier. We are thinking of sending him to Equatorial Africa where, given his experience and his fine qualities, he would make an excellent pro-vicar.

The only difficulty is that his presence is still required in Algiers for a few months to brief his successor on current matters, especially in the difficult circumstances we are living through at present. This is why I am suggesting to Your Eminence to leave the administration of the Pro-vicariate to Father Guillet for the time being, until the departure of Father Deguerry who would, however, take on his title as of now and delegate his powers to his substitute. I think it would be fitting for Father Deguerry to receive his episcopal ordination at the time he leaves for Equatorial Africa. But this question will be the subject of a longer and more detailed communication with the Sacred Congregation.

In conclusion, I am delighted to tell Your Eminence that this very week we have received excellent news from our missions. The baptisms of many catechumens have taken place in Uganda on the eve of Pentecost and King Mutesa appears to be more and more favourably disposed to our Fathers. One of these, Father Lourdel, having had the good fortune to cure him of a persistent case of dysentery, is especially favoured.

Finally, I thank Your Eminence for informing me that you are kindly placing two thousand francs at my disposal for Equatorial Africa through the work of the Holy Childhood in Vienna and which have been deposited with Monsignor Mazotti. I shall instruct my agent, Mr Grillotti, as to how he can withdraw this sum. Please accept, Your Eminence, my sincere and respectful good wishes and know that I remain, Your most humble, obedient and devoted servant.

