

Letter to Father Toussaint Deniaud and the missionaries of Tanganyika (22nd November 1879)

I have given Father Moinet some written instructions for the second caravan in which I mention the absolute necessity of their applying themselves immediately to the apostolate and the Rules which must be kept. In particular, I draw your attention to what I have written concerning the establishing or rather the re-establishing of the catechumenate and the setting up of the first orphanages for African children whom you have gathered round you. I hope that the letters I shall soon receive from Tanganyika will bring good news and will tell me that you have begun Our Lord's work. I love you dearly, my Sons, but I would rather learn you were dead than see you lacking in the spirit of your vocation and become some kind of African Robinson Crusoes, as I have sometimes told you. *Sursum corda!* This is my cry sent to you across space, so as to rouse your souls.

There are now nine of you, unless one of those belonging to your mission has gone to follow good Father Pascal. But I hope that God has kept you all safe. As I indicated in my instructions, you must now find the right moment to split up and establish mission stations on the other side of Tanganyika, without ever forgetting the rule which obliges you to be always three confreres together. However, I would allow two Fathers with two auxiliaries, if this were to occur among you. Choose places most favourable for your health as well as for the number and the mood of the people living there.

Farewell, my dear Sons; do not forget to write; and when you do, don't write out of some kind of duty. What good is a letter of four short pages, full of trivia, when it might cost perhaps 100 francs for it to reach us? For your correspondence to be interesting and informative for your superiors, you will have to divide up the work.

One might speak, for example, of the mission's material conditions, another of life in community, a third could take the customs of the people and a fourth might tell stories about the past of the African peoples, their traditions, and their religious beliefs. I have earnestly encouraged such a study in my written instructions. I do so again now. You cannot imagine the great interest with which your letters are awaited and, if they are well done, they can be of great use.

Farewell, again, my dear Sons; you will receive many other letters and papers along with this one. So I am not sending you news. But, from the bottom of my heart, I tenderly send you my fatherly blessing, for you and for your work, and I remain yours most devotedly in Christ Our Lord.

To Mother Madeleine, who cared for him in his final days.

The cardinal expressed his desire to be surrounded by his dear daughters until the end, and repeated several times:

« Tell them that I'm counting on them to pull me out of purgatory. Tell them to soften my suffer-

