



1888: The Portuguese ambassador in Rome asked Lavigerie for missionaries for the countries under Portuguese influence. Talks with Portugal and Propaganda.

1889: Foundation of Mponda (Nyasa). The station is suppressed on 16 June 1891.

Letter to the Office of the Propagation of the Faith (December 1884)

5) Preparing Christian villages – The general vocation for children of the mission being to get married, we seek to group them together, once they have settled in, in such a way that they form small Christian centres. Since we have had Sisters in the mission, it has become easier for us to go on with this task, since our children, when they get married, naturally want to find girls educated by the Sisters.

The success we have in this kind of apostolate. The superior of one of our missions in Kabylia wrote to me, «gives us great encouragement. In the space of a few months, I have been able to marry three catechumens under these conditions, and already, by greatly increasing our hopes, they have begun to give us immense consolation. How it consoles me to see that with our young Christians and catechumens we can give our religious services a pomp and solemnity which would be the envy of many parishes in France. Our young couples often bring their relatives along with them. These always help bring some quiet to our services and our chapel can hardly contain them all.

6) Care of the sick – The missionaries in the Sahara and in Kabylia put into practice the apostolate Our Lord practised and which he recommended to the apostles: cure the sick and say: the Kingdom of Heaven has come. They have a many patients. The average number who come each day asking for treatment varies between 40 and 50.

The sick continue to crowd into our dispensary. a missionary wrote to me the other day, “The women with their small children go to the Sisters to get treatment, while the men ask us to relieve their suffering. For a long time now, I have noticed that Providence works some real wonders through our interventions, and this, often without our knowing. Considering the little medical knowledge, we pos-

sess and the kinds of ‘simples’ we use, we are surprised by the effects we can bring about. Every day, we see sick people arriving at our house who must have walked five or six leagues to come and receive out treatment. To extend our work in this apostolate a little further, once or twice a week, two of us set out to visit a section of our mission. Carrying the most urgently needed medicines, we make for some of the more remote villages whose sick could come only with great difficulty to our house. Seated on a rock in the middle of the village, we are immediately surrounded by a thick crowd of men, women and children. At these times, we think quite naturally of Our Lord: the sick hurried to him, because he did good as he went along. We do our best, following his example, to please everyone with our unremitting care and some kind words as well. Bringing relief to bodies is also to bring relief to souls. Prejudices slowly crumble and often disappear completely. We can frequently have more than one hundred Kabyles per day to care for at home.”

So, this, Gentlemen, is a summary of the work of our missionaries this year. I have elaborated more on the missions in the Sahara, since I am promised a long report which I shall soon have the honour of sending to you, I hope, for publishing in *Missions Catholiques*. Our missions are developing every year and need considerable funding. We dare to hope, therefore, that, with more generous funding, you will allow us to continue the good work we have begun. An extra grant, in particular, would be needed for the building work I told you about and which is long overdue.

