

Letter to Mgr Livinhac on the finances for the coming caravan (15 January 1885)

Dear Monsignor,

I have just received the answer of the Councils for the Work of Propaganda Fide to the latest requests I had addressed to them in order to cover the travel expenses of the caravans for the four missions of Equatorial Africa. The caravan led by Father Guillet which is to found the mission in the south of Upper-Congo is in fact included in what has been foreseen for this year, as also that requested by the Reverend Schmitz, the agent of the King of the Belgians, whose arrival in Algiers I am expecting from day to day. The total amount allocated for these four caravans is one hundred and ten thousand francs. This is divided as follows: for Victoria Nyanza 40.000 francs, for Tanganyka 40.000 francs, for southern Upper-Congo 15.000 francs, and for northern Upper-Congo 15.000 francs. Besides the last-mentioned amounts, I had already received from the Pontifical Work of the Holy Childhood, for the missions in Equatorial Africa, a subsidy of 50,000 francs. Out of this amount Fr Charmetant had to subtract 1160 francs as a first offering of our dioceses to this Pontifical Work, as I have explained to you. This means that the real amount received is 53,840 francs (sic), of which one quarter is due to Nyanza and another quarter to Tanganyka.

Finally, I have just received from the Work of Propaganda Fide the first instalment for the year 1885. This comes to 22,476 francs, of which a quarter is due to Nyanza and another quarter to Tanganyka. So recapitulating all the amounts destined for Tanganyka and Nyanza results in the following: grant of Propaganda Fide for 1884: 59,660.20 francs; subsidies for the two caravans: 80,000 francs; grant from the Holy Childhood: 26, 920 francs, and a first instalment for 1885: 11,238.05 francs. This gives a total amount of 177,818.25 francs. Of this amount you have already received 100,000 francs which are available for you at the Société Algérienne. You are therefore still due to receive 77,818.25 francs; you will find enclosed a promissory note for this sum.

As you can see, Providence has been kind to you, in some ways much more than we could have expected. I have been very happy to have been able to contribute to this result. I am sending a copy of this letter to Reverend Father Bridoux because, as you

know, you have to pay to him a sixth part of the allocations received from the different Pontifical Works. Consequently, he will have to calculate with you the sum due to be paid to the general treasury from the amounts mentioned above.

Report sent to the Propagation of the Faith of Lyon (15th January 1883)

Saint Anne's in Jerusalem – The building work begun last year for the minor seminary for the Greek Melkites is almost finished. It has cost almost one hundred thousand francs. The number of pupils has doubled. There are nine missionaries. What seems to have increased proportionately is the Latinists' opposition to our project. It is such that my personal presence would seem to be essential. I shall leave for Rome after Easter and shall discuss the matter of this trip with the Holy Father. It is problematic because of my precarious state of health broken by so many concerns and so much fatigue. It is no less delicate either, since I shall be the first cardinal to appear in Jerusalem since the crusades and God know how people are going to interpret the purpose of my visit.

As for you, Gentlemen, you know that I have no other intention then to seek the glory of God and the salvation of those poor Middle-Easterners who are so vulnerable after all the evils that have assailed the Church. This, then, is the quick account of the state of our missions. It will be enough, along with what you already know from my previous report, for you to focus and show you that, with our needs increasing, we must ask you increase also your charity, to the extent that you are able.

