

1854: The Sorbonne University grants Lavigerie a doctorate in theology to be able to teach at the Faculty of Theology. He was appointed assistant professor of Church history. He taught the history of the first centuries, Protestantism and Jansenism.

1857: Lavigerie is appointed professor of ecclesiastical history at the Sorbonne University.

Letter to Father Deguerry, Superior at Saint-Cyprien des Attafs (24th January 1874)

My dear Son,

The school objectives were sent off this morning and I expect you will have received them before this letter. You must hurry to organise the classes for men and for women. These classes should last two hours each evening, i.e., three quarters of an hour of reading, a half-hour of singing canticles or other, three quarters of an hour of writing. On Sunday morning: an hour of reading and an hour of singing; in the evening, an hour of writing and an hour of singing.

The Sisters for the class will arrive on Monday. Make sure everything is ready for their class: tables, benches, etc. Give them also half the syllabaries, exercise books, pens, hymn books, cards, ink, etc. etc. Finally, while paying special attention to the boys, do not neglect the women.

Begin immediately the Congregation of the Children of Mary. They have a manual with their rules. Elect as president the most devout woman, the best able to exert a good moral influence. Entrust the direction of the Congregation to Sister P... whom I am sending to you to direct the women's class. She is the most capable of the Sisters and the most reasonable.

Begin also the Congregation for the boys. Give them the Little Office of Sunday and badges that you will have them vote for themselves and that you will propose for my approval. With the Sisters, I am sending eight little children from Saint Charles; three for the

norias (the two smallest and one almost sightless), five for the flocks. These eight children will be under the direction of Sister S... They will sleep on the floor on straw mattresses, which they will remove in the morning, either in the refectory, in the Sisters' community room, or elsewhere, if you see fit, for example in the grounds, but always with a Brother or Sister within reach. The Sisters will feed them and will give them, as at Saint Charles, only bread and soup. They will also clothe them.

I have bought you a superb harmonium, which will arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday. Go to fetch it yourself at the station and make sure it is carried with care: on a stretcher would be best.

My dear Son, I earnestly recommend your undertaking. It is of extreme importance. Everyone has his or her eyes fixed on it. Some English people came to ask me to visit it. The Consul of England wrote to me to obtain a notice on our villages so that he could put it into a book on Algeria. The Governor wants to come and see you. Therefore, everything needs to be in good working order. Direct the men with energy with the aim of surpassing the women's defects of character. If little troubles arise, hide them from everybody instead of complaining. Recommend the same thing to the Sisters. Moreover, be convinced that prayer, dedication, and faith will be your best weapons.

