

**1868:** Mr. Girard introduces Bishop Lavigerie to the three major seminarians of the diocese of Algiers who, in December, had offered themselves for the apostolate to the Arabs: Charles Finateu (from Koléah in Algeria), Eugène Barbier from Saint Héand (Loire) and Louis Pux from Ainy (from Rhône). Lavigerie gave his consent for a trial. They were the founders of the Society of the Missionaries of Africa. This was the beginning of the Society of the Missionaries of Africa.

### About the Missionary Sisters in Kabylia (29th January 1877)

Very Reverend Father,

In theory, I am quite agreed with the setting up of Sisters in the Kabyle Stations. However, regrettably, I cannot authorise the introduction of the Sisters of Ribeuville when at Algiers we already have a community of Sisters specially intended for this Mission. You will easily understand that this would be to knock over with one hand what I was hoping to build with the other. In addition, the communities of France, as they have multiple works, only attach secondary interest to those of Africa and they would never give us the numbers of personnel we will one day need. We therefore have several different communities in Kabylia. This seems to me to have some drawbacks at all points of view. Moreover, I no longer am free in this respect. Not only I personally, but the diocesan administration has committed itself by a form of synallagmatic (reciprocal) agreement to prevent any other Congregation of women than those of the Missions of Africa, of Kouba, into Kabylia. Attached to my letter is the text of this agreement of which you are perhaps unaware; it would be good, I believe, to be acquainted with it as it has a reservation and a right in your favour.

Please consider, Very Reverend Father, if it would be good for you to request Sisters from the Mother Superior General of the Sisters of Kouba. I believe they will be able to give you some, although they have already promised others to the Ouadhias.

### Letter to Monsignor Dusserre (29 January 1888)

Monsignor,

I can at last tell your Lordship for certain that it is in the cathedral of Algiers that I shall celebrate the Mass of the 25th anniversary of my episcopal consecration, on Thursday 22nd March next. Several obstacles seemed at first to be preventing the fulfilment of this wish, but I have set them all aside out of tenderness [of the heart] and paternal consideration for what is only right. It is to Algiers that I belong, through the first bonds. It is to Algiers that I must dedicate this day which, so to speak, will provide me with a resume of the most precious memories of my life in Africa.

What I am asking for, moreover, on this occasion is not for solemn celebrations, nor to be honoured. I wish only for prayers, on the one hand in order to ask God to pardon me for past faults which are part of human misery, and in particular of my own, and on the other hand to obtain for me, in the future, a future which cannot be far away, the grace of a holy death, fully resigned [to the will of God].

Please be so kind as to solicit for me, for this twofold purpose, the prayers of the clergy, the religious communities and the pious faithful, telling them how happy I shall be to bless myself those who will be able to join the venerable prelates of Algeria and Tunisia in our cathedral, on 22nd March. These prelates have, in fact, been good enough to announce their fraternal visit on that day.

For the rest, let us remain silent and modest. The sorry conditions in France, and the great jubilee which is being celebrated in Rome at this time and before which all else should be eclipsed, does not allow for any great show. Be assured, Monsignor, that I remain, with affection and respect, devotedly Yours in Our Lord.

