

**1884:** Lavigerie presides over the closing of the synod of the diocese of Tunis. The synod expressed a unanimous wish for the re-establishment of the episcopal see of Carthage.

**1887:** Founding of Porto Farina (Tunisia). The Sisters moved there in 1890. It is suppressed in 1897.

**1889:** Foundation of Notre Dame of the Exiled of Nyegezi. The station was closed in March 1891.

### Letter to Father Finateu (31st January 1871)

My dear Son,

Thank you for the news you send of Maison-Carrée. For me, they are a consolation in the midst of the dreadful problems that prevail in France and that threaten to break out into civil war. Pray lots, my dear children. I don't know if you know that I am presenting myself for election to the Constituent Assembly. Elections are in six days time, and this will keep me apart from you just at the point I was going to leave, because I was due to embark on Friday for Philippeville. The Holy Father wanted it and asked me to do this service for the Church. What will become of me? I don't know. However, if I were to perish in the doing of my duty, I would commend myself to you, my dear children, before God, for him to forgive my sins.

I wish to let you know also that in foreseeing possible outcomes, I have appointed my Vicar General for the Mission. He is (Auxiliary) Bishop Soubirane. I chose him, because if I die, he will be able to be more helpful to you than anyone else. The temporal affairs are also free from financial worries and Bishop Soubirane knows how. Do not be saddened, children, by these arrangements. These simple precautions of prudence I am taking are in view of civil discord, during which Catholic Members of Parliament could become victims.

In any case, I trust that you will not run any risk in Algeria. Moreover, the terrible crisis that seems to threaten France does not seem to going to last, or go beyond the political arena.

Now, I am going to reply briefly to the questions you asked me. You can sell the red and grey horses you mentioned, provided they sell well. The red one cost me 1,200 Frs. You need to keep the black one that does the work of two. M. Combes sent me accounts showing that there are a lot of expenses at Maison-Carrée. Think about it. Do not make unnecessary expenses. We have not had donations here for a long time and our funds are diminishing at a fearsome rate.

Please ask Brother Tassy to send me through you an exact and detailed account by hundredweight, 1) wheat sent to Mr. Narbonne since August for milling; 2) wheat already consumed in flour; 3) wheat remaining. This chart has to include the quantity of wheat coming from Maison-Carrée as well as, twice, from the Attafs. What has been done with the barley, maize and broad beans from the Attafs? Has it been milled? I would also like to know the state of your livestock, pigs as well as cows, etc. Make out a complete chart for me, as I wish to sell off the surplus.

For the novices you mentioned to me, there is nothing more to do than maintain their rights, which are clear. You will see with Mr. Gillard who, as Vicar General, will certify that they have been seminarians for a year, and, besides, they were in Algeria before the 4th September. You can give the habit to these young men you mentioned to me, if Father Creusat thinks it opportune.

Farewell, my dear Son. I bless you all from the bottom of my heart, wishing you peace within and without and requesting your prayers for me.

