



18TH CENTURY FRENCH OIL ON CANVAS PAINTING "FOURTH STATION OF THE CROSS"

\$1,800

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Decorate a wall with this colorful religious antique painting. Created in France, circa 1780, the artwork is set in the original frame and depicts the "fourth station of the cross " Jesus meets his mother". Mary moves toward her Son, but due to the Cross, their embrace is restricted. No words are spoken. No words are necessary — their connection communicates compassion and love. Despite her immense suffering, Mary remains. The painting is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use. The Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows or the Via Crucis, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The object of the stations is to help the Christian faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. It has become one of the most popular devotions and the stations can be found in many Western Christian churches, including Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic ones. Measures: 27" W x 32" H. Stations of the Cross, also called Way of the Cross, a series of 14 pictures or carvings portraying events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment. The series of stations is as follows: (1) Jesus is condemned to death (2) Jesus is made to bear his cross (3) Jesus falls the first time (4) Jesus meets his mother (5) Simon (of Cyrene) is made to bear the cross (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face (7) Jesus falls the second time (8) the women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus (9) Jesus falls the third time (10) Jesus is stripped of his garments (11) Jesus is nailed to the cross (12) Jesus dies on the cross (13) Jesus is taken down from the cross (14) Jesus is placed in the tomb. The images are usually mounted on the inside walls of a church or chapel but may also be erected in such places as cemeteries, corridors of hospitals and religious houses, or on mountainsides. The devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the 14 stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from the supposed location of Pilate's house to Calvary. Tradition holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, set up stone markers at her home outside Jerusalem to prayerfully retrace the steps of her son's Passion, but the origin of the devotion in its present form is not clear. The number of stations originally observed in Jerusalem was considerably smaller than 14. In the early 16th century, Ways of the Cross were established in Europe, and the tradition of 14 stations probably derived from the best known of them, that at Leuven (1505). The Franciscans long popularized the practice, and in the 18th century they bowed to Western Christian devotional feeling and provided 14 stations in Jerusalem. The traditional stations have been recently supplemented with the Via Lucis (the Way of Light), in which the meditations focus on the resurrected Christ. Prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross is especially common during Lent and on Fridays throughout the year, in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on



Anglican, and Lutheran traditions. Each station is commonly visited with some variation of the prayer “We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world” and with a reading from a relevant passage of Scripture. Both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Alphonso Maria de’ Liguori wrote devotional guides for the Stations of the Cross that remain popular.