



18TH CENTURY SPANISH BAROQUE SAINT JULIUS MARTYR OIL PAINTING WITH ANGELS

\$7,950

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This important antique devotional painting depicts Saint Julius the Martyr surrounded by angels and the traditional symbols of Christian martyrdom. Crafted in Spain circa 1760, the large oil on canvas is executed in the dramatic Baroque tradition, with the haloed saint shown kneeling upon clouds and raising his gaze toward a heavenly light.

Saint Julius is portrayed in elaborate classical armor, wearing a blue breastplate, richly ornamented golden garments, boots, and a flowing red mantle. Above him, a winged putto presents a palm frond, the traditional emblem of victory through martyrdom, while additional angels emerge from the shadowed celestial background. At the lower left, a cherub holds a banner clearly inscribed "S. Julius Martir," identifying the subject and providing a rare and desirable textual element within the composition. A seated figure at the right reaches toward the saint, heightening the sense of movement and emotional intensity.

The theatrical arrangement, expressive gestures, and strong contrasts between illuminated figures and the dark background are characteristic of Spanish Baroque religious painting. Rich reds, luminous golds, ochres, and soft blues enliven the composition, while the delicately modeled faces and decorative treatment of the garments reflect the increasingly graceful character of mid-18th-century devotional art.

The painting is presented in an impressive carved and giltwood frame featuring a shaped inner reserve that follows the arched and scalloped outline of the canvas. Applied shell ornaments embellish the upper corners, while the deeply carved outer border is decorated with scrolling acanthus leaves and fruit motifs. The gilded surface retains a warm, beautifully aged patina with rubbing, minor losses, and expected wear.

The original canvas has been professionally relined using a traditional wax-resin lining technique to stabilize and preserve the work. The painted surface retains visible craquelure, minor surface irregularities, and age-related wear consistent with an 18th-century painting. A later hanging wire has been added to the back.

Substantial in scale and rich in devotional symbolism, this Spanish religious painting would create a commanding focal point above a console, fireplace mantel, or commode in a study, library, chapel, or formal living room. Excellent condition commensurate with age and use.

