

19TH CENTURY ITALIAN RELIGIOUS OIL PAINTING OF A BISHOP'S BLESSING

$8,800

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Painted in Italy circa 1890, this large antique oil on canvas depicts a solemn moment of religious devotion within a grand classical interior. At the center, a seated bishop or high-ranking prelate, dressed in deep purple ecclesiastical robes and wearing a gold pectoral cross, raises his right hand in blessing over a kneeling boy making the Sign of the Cross.

A group of young men gathers closely at left, their varied expressions and colorful garments bringing warmth and narrative interest to the scene, while a standing figure at right respectfully turns away. Behind them, monumental columns frame a recessed niche containing a sculpted Madonna and Child, reinforcing the sacred character of the composition and adding architectural depth.

The artist handles the figures with careful draftsmanship and a restrained academic palette, balancing soft flesh tones, rich burgundy and red textiles, and muted stone architecture. The overall composition has the polished formality associated with late 19th-century European religious and academic painting.

The work is presented in a carved giltwood frame with repeating oval and foliate ornament. The antique painting is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with well-preserved color and surface throughout.

Dimensions: 46.5" W x 57" H.

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