



PAIR OF 17TH C. FRENCH WALNUT PANELS OF SAINT PAUL AND SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA

\$5,500

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Categories: [Black Forest & Carved Wood](#)

Carved in France circa 1680, this important pair of ecclesiastical walnut panels depicts Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint Teresa of Ávila, each rendered in high relief with impressive scale, presence, and devotional detail. Likely originating from a monastic choir stall or chapel setting, the figures are sculpted from solid walnut with deeply modeled drapery and expressive features characteristic of early Baroque religious woodwork. The male figure is confidently identified as Saint Paul, shown with a solemn gaze, cross-emblazoned tunic, and a short sword, his traditional attribute symbolizing both his martyrdom and his role as theological warrior of the early Church. His stance evokes authority and contemplation, true to his legacy as apostle and epistle-writer. The female figure, draped in a flowing veil and monastic habit, holds a book and crozier, symbolizing spiritual wisdom and ecclesiastical leadership. These attributes, along with her contemplative expression, align with Saint Teresa of Ávila, the renowned Spanish mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church. The inclusion of braided hair is a rare artistic flourish not typical in Teresa's iconography but may reflect a regional interpretation of her status as a powerful abbess. Each exceptional panel measures 21 inches wide by 4.5 inches deep and 47.5 inches high. Combined weight: 73 pounds. The walnut displays a rich, warm patina with light wear and surface shrinkage consistent with age. Striking in scale and craftsmanship, this rare matched pair of saintly figures offers both spiritual resonance and strong architectural impact, ideal for ecclesiastical collections or Old World-inspired interiors.