



Antique Jesuit Reliquary With 16 Relics Of Saints And Martyrs



1 000 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Description

Beautiful and important antique Jesuit reliquary, of small format and great devotional strength, with an interior ensemble of 16 perfectly identified relics, all of them linked to the Society of Jesus and to its spiritual, missionary and martyrial history. The most valuable aspect of this piece does not lie in the case that contains them, but in the extraordinary selection of saints brought together: the founder of the order, great missionaries, martyrs of Japan and North America, young saints, doctors, confessors and essential figures of the Ignatian tradition.

The ensemble is carefully arranged on a red background, with the relics placed radially around the centre and accompanied by their

Dealer

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corresponding labels. This presentation gives the reliquary a very clear, orderly and attractive appearance, but above all it allows the spiritual strength of the content to be appreciated at a single glance. This is not a reliquary of various unrelated saints, but a piece fully centred on the Jesuit universe: vocation, mission, study, preaching, sacrifice, inner life and martyrdom.

Relics it contains

1. S. Ignatii de Loyola - Saint Ignatius of Loyola: Founder of the Society of Jesus. He was a soldier before his conversion, which began after the wound he received at Pamplona in 1521. His figure stands at the origin of Ignatian spirituality and of the Spiritual Exercises.

2. S. Franc. Xaverii - Saint Francis Xavier: One of the first companions of Saint Ignatius and the great Jesuit missionary of the East. His life became linked to the evangelization of India, Southeast Asia and Japan.

3. S. Franc. De Hier. - Saint Francis de Geronimo: Great preacher and popular missionary in Naples, famous for his intense apostolic activity. He is one of the most representative Jesuit saints of urban preaching.

4. S. Petri Claverii - Saint Peter Claver: Known as the great apostle of the slaves in Cartagena de Indias. He devoted his life to the spiritual and material care of enslaved Africans, becoming a figure of heroic charity.

5. S. M. M. Japon. - Holy Martyrs of Japan: Collective relic linked to the Christian martyrs of Japan, among them Saint Paul Miki and his companions. Their presence recalls the strength of the Jesuit mission and martyrdom in Japanese lands.

6. S. Garnier M. - Saint Charles Garnier: French Jesuit and missionary in New France, he worked among the Hurons of present-day Canada. He died a martyr in 1649 during the Iroquois attacks against the Christian missions, shortly after Saint Jean de Brebeuf and Saint Gabriel Lalemant.

7. S. Joa. Brebeuf - Saint Jean de Brebeuf: One of the great Jesuit missionaries of Canada. He learned the Huron language, lived for years among this people and devoted his life to evangelization in New France. He was martyred in 1649 together with Saint Gabriel Lalemant, after suffering cruel tortures.

8. S. Lalemant - Saint Gabriel Lalemant: French Jesuit, intellectual and missionary, companion of Saint Jean de Brebeuf in the Huron mission. He shared martyrdom with him in 1649 and forms part, together with Saint Charles Garnier and other companions, of the group of the holy Jesuit martyrs of North America.

9. S. Roberti Card. Bell. - Saint Robert Bellarmine: Cardinal, theologian and Doctor of the Church. He was one of the great intellectual figures of the Counter-Reformation and one of the main defenders of the Catholic faith in his time.

10. S. Joannis Berch. - Saint John Berchmans: Young Belgian Jesuit, model of holiness in everyday life, fidelity and dedication in small things. He is one of the most beloved youthful figures within Jesuit spirituality.

11. S. Stanislai Kostka - Saint Stanislaus Kostka: Young Jesuit saint, symbol of firm vocation and total dedication to God. He overcame family opposition in order to enter the Society and is a highly venerated figure in the formation of young Jesuits.

12. S. Aloisii Gonzagae - Saint Aloysius

Gonzaga: Italian nobleman who renounced a life of privilege to become a Jesuit. He died very young while caring for the sick during an epidemic and is one of the great young saints of the Church.

13. S. Petri Canisii - Saint Peter Canisius: Jesuit, Doctor of the Church and great figure of the Catholic reform in the German-speaking world. He was a founder of colleges, preacher and author of fundamental catechisms.

14. S. Joan. Regis - Saint John Francis Regis: Tireless missionary in southern France, famous for his preaching, his catechesis and his care for the poor, the sick and prisoners. His apostolate was brief, but of enormous intensity.

15. S. Alph. Rodriguez - Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez: Mallorcan Jesuit brother, known for his humility and for his holiness in daily service as porter of the college of Montesión in Mallorca. He is one of the most endearing figures of Jesuit spirituality.

16. S. Franc. Borgia - Saint Francis Borgia: Great Spanish nobleman, Duke of Gandía and third Superior General of the Society of Jesus. He renounced his social position to enter the order and became one of its great figures of government and holiness.

The selection of relics functions almost like a small journey through the spiritual history of the Society of Jesus: Saint Ignatius represents the origin of the order; Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Peter Claver, Saint John Francis Regis and Saint Peter Canisius show its missionary, doctrinal and apostolic dimension; Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Saint Stanislaus Kostka and Saint John Berchmans embody youthful holiness; and the martyrs of Japan and North America recall the ultimate sacrifice of evangelization in mission

lands.

The case is oval, made of silver-plated metal, sober and simple, with an upper ring for suspension. The front is protected by glass and allows the arrangement of the relics to be clearly seen. The exterior simplicity helps precisely to concentrate attention on what is essential: the devotional ensemble it preserves inside.

The rear part can be opened and reveals the sealed reverse. It preserves the wax seal with the fastening threads, a very important detail in this type of piece, because it indicates that the ensemble was closed and authenticated within a formal religious context. The presence of the wax seal reinforces the material confidence of the reliquary and adds important value to the piece.

It is a small reliquary in size, but very intense in its content. It brings together in a single piece some of the most important names of the Society of Jesus: the founder, the great missionaries, the young saints, the doctors, the confessors and the martyrs of Japan and North America. This unity turns the ensemble into much more than a simple gathering of relics: it is a small synthesis of Jesuit spirituality, from vocation and study to mission, charity and martyrdom.

A particularly attractive piece for a collection of religious antiques, for a person devoted to Ignatian spirituality or for an institution linked to the Society of Jesus. Its exterior simplicity concentrates all attention on what is essential: the 16 identified relics, the coherence of the ensemble and the preserved wax seal, which reinforces its character as an antique reliquary closed within a formal religious context.

Measurements: Total height: 6 cm (2.36 in). Total width: 5 cm (1.97 in).