# Based On Jules-alexis Muenier (1863-1942), *the Catechism*--vesoul



4 600 EUR

Signature : Jules-Alexis Muenier

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 70 cm

Width : 90,5 cm

## Description

Based on Jules-Alexis MUENIER(Vesoul 1863 - Coulevon 1942)The CatechismH. 70 cm; W. 90.5 cmSigned and dated lower left "Muenier 1893 "Contemporary copy based on the 1890 work  Muenier is particularly known for his genre scenes and depictions of rural life, to which he brings a keen attention to everyday gestures, postures, and human relationships. His naturalistic approach focuses as much on the presence of the figures as on the light and atmosphere surrounding them.  Created in 1890, his work titled *The Catechism Lesson*, better known as *The Catechism*, was exhibited at the Salon of the National Society of Fine Arts in 1891. The scene takes place in the garden of a rectory, amid hollyhocks and lush vegetation. An elderly priest, dressed in his black cassock, sits

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facing four children. The boy standing recites his lesson; a little girl follows along in her breviary while the other children wait their turn, their expressions wavering between attention and distraction. The village and its rooftops are faintly visible in the background, overlooking the countryside bathed in soft light.  The subject refers to a familiar practice in rural France at the end of the 19th century: the teaching of catechism by the parish priest. Since the school laws of 1882, religious instruction was no longer provided in public schools; it continued outside of school hours, particularly at the rectory or in its garden. The painting thus captures a moment of religious and moral instruction, but also reflects a new structure of children's lives, divided between school and parish instruction. Muenier chose to depict this lesson without exaggeration, as a scene from everyday life, paying close attention to the diversity of the children's personalities. Beyond its religious theme, the image gently evokes childhood, learning, and the passing down of knowledge from one generation to the next.