

BLESSED GIOVANNI NAPOLITANO

INSCRIPTION:

BEING A DEACON, THE BLESSED GIOVANNI NAPOLITANO, LIKE ANOTHER LAWRENCE, PREACHING THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN SYRIA, WHERE, WHILE HE WISHED TO CONVERT KING GAZE, SUFFERED THE HARSHTEST TORMENTS FOR LOVE OF HIS BELOVED JESUS; AND WHEN AT LAST HIS HEAD WAS CUT OFF, HE SENT HIS SOUL TO BE CROWNED IN HEAVEN IN THE YEAR...

With the intent of converting him, Giovanni preached the Gospel in the city of Gaza in the presence of the Muslim governor, who had him imprisoned, hoping to make him abandon his faith through hunger, thirst, and beatings.

When they told him that Giovanni was unwilling to make any change, he sentenced him to death.

Fra Giuseppe frescoed one of the most dramatic scenes dedicated to the martyrs. Giovanni, half-naked, with his eyes closed and a pained expression, is seated on the torture table, and a Muslim man, urged on by the governor, is about to cut his throat.

As the blade sinks in, the first blood spurts from the wound in his throat. His feet are tied with a rope to the legs of the table to keep him still.

Other men, all equipped with knives and other torture tools, take part in the act with expressions of fury.

Two courtiers, on the other hand, seem almost amused. In the inscription, Fra Giuseppe compares Brother Giovanni to Saint Lawrence, who was tortured while lying on a red-hot grill.