



**Joan Roig i Diggle (1917-1936)  
Piarist Alumnus Dies as a Martyr**

Pope Francis authorized the Congregation of the Causes of Saints to promulgate the Decree of the Martyrdom of the Servant of God, Joan Roig i Diggle, on October 2, 2019.

Fathers József Ruppert, Mateusz Pindelski and Andrés Valencia Henao, who have recently served as Postulators General for the Piarist Fathers, have worked on his cause for martyrdom at the request of the *Association of the Friends of Joan Roig i Diggle (Associació d'Amics de Joan Roig i Diggle)*.

Joan studied at the Piarist School of Our Lady (Escola Pia Nostra Senyora) in Barcelona, Spain between the ages of 10 and 17 years from 1927 to 1934. He stood out for his respectfulness and dedication in his studies. He was a very close friend of two Piarist Fathers, Francisco Carceller Galindo and Ignasi Casanovas Perramon. Both were killed in 1936 and beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 1995.

Joan was born in Barcelona on May 12, 1917. He began his studies with the Christian Brothers. For high school, he entered the school of the Piarist Fathers. His family had serious economic problems. Therefore, they moved to the nearby town of Masnou. He began working to help his family, first in a tissue warehouse and then in a factory in Barcelona. While working, he also continued his studies with the hope of eventually becoming a lawyer.

While in Masnou, he actively participated with the Federation of Young Christians of Catalonia. During the war, a priest secretly entrusted the care of the Eucharistic to him. He was expected to preserve the Eucharist in his home and to secretly distribute it to his relatives and friends. On the day that he was arrested, realizing that the consecrated hosts were in danger, he consumed them in order to avoid their desecration. Shortly before the militia men took him away, he said goodbye to his mother. He said "God is with me." Shortly afterward, he was shot near the cemetery of Santa Coloma de Gramanet on September 12, 1936. He was just 19 years old.

*Father Andrés Valencia Henao, Sch. P.  
Postulator General*