

THE BARCELONA OF SAINT IGNATIUS



1. On coming from Manresa, Ignatius entered Barcelona through the “**Portal Nou**” (New City Gate) in the medieval wall, near the place where at present the “Arc de Triomf” (Memorial Arch) stands .



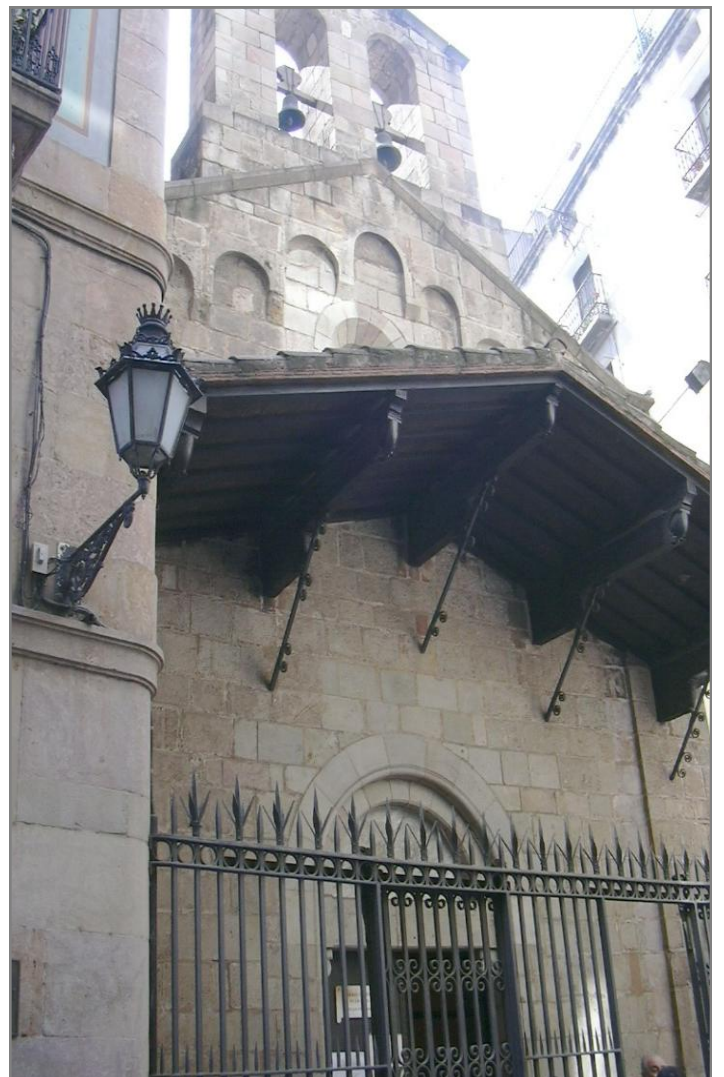
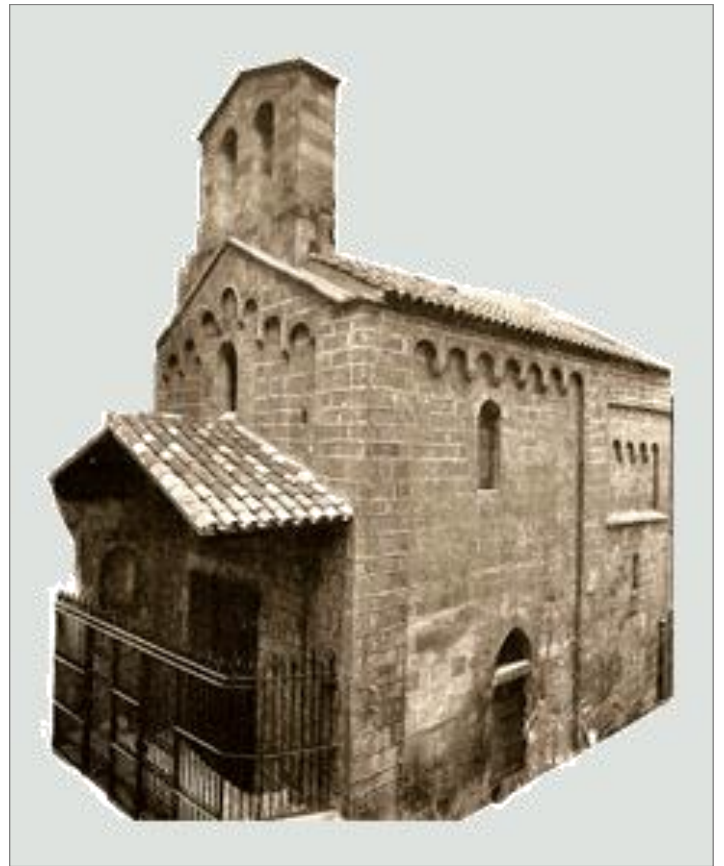
1. He walked along the “Carrer del Portal Nou” (New Gate Street) at the end of which several **medieval arches** still stand, coincided with “Plaça Sant Agustí Vell” (Ancient Saint Augustine Square).



1. In the “Plaça Sant Agustí Vell” a **watering place for cattle** can be observed. The site and present layout are the same as the original, even if the old stones have disappeared.



2. Where the “Carrer Carders” (Carders Str) becomes “Carrer Corders” (Ropemakers Str) the **Marcus Chapel** can be found. It was built in 1166, according to the will of Bernardí Marcús, in which he commands his children-heirs to finish it .





2. Before the gates of this chapel, those entering or leaving the town would make a stop either to ask for protection or to thank the “**Mare de Déu de la Guia**” (Our Lady of the Guide) for a good trip .



3. Agnes Pascual's home, where Ignatius lodged during his three long stays in Barcelona, was on the “**Carrer dels Cotoners**” (Cotton Dealers Street). The opening of the “Carrer de la Princesa” (Princess Street) in the 19th century required its complete demolition.



3. The room where Ignatius stayed was probably at the **level of one flight up** of the house presently on the corner of the street now called St. Ignatius Street.



- The present “Santa Caterina” (Saint Catherine) market occupies the site of the large old **“Santa Caterina” Dominican convent**. For 200 years, from 1603 almost up to its demolition, the house of Agnes Pascual was owned by this convent.
4. Beside the Romanesque wall, at the beginning of “Carrer de la Boria, 3 (3 Boria Street), was the school (**Estudi General**) where **Master Ardévol** used to teach, and Ignatius attended. A few years later the “Estudi General” moved to the upper Ramblas. Then, early in the 20th century, the opening of the present “Via Layetana” street, including the “Plaça de l’Angel” (Angel’s Square) changed the whole aspect of the area.

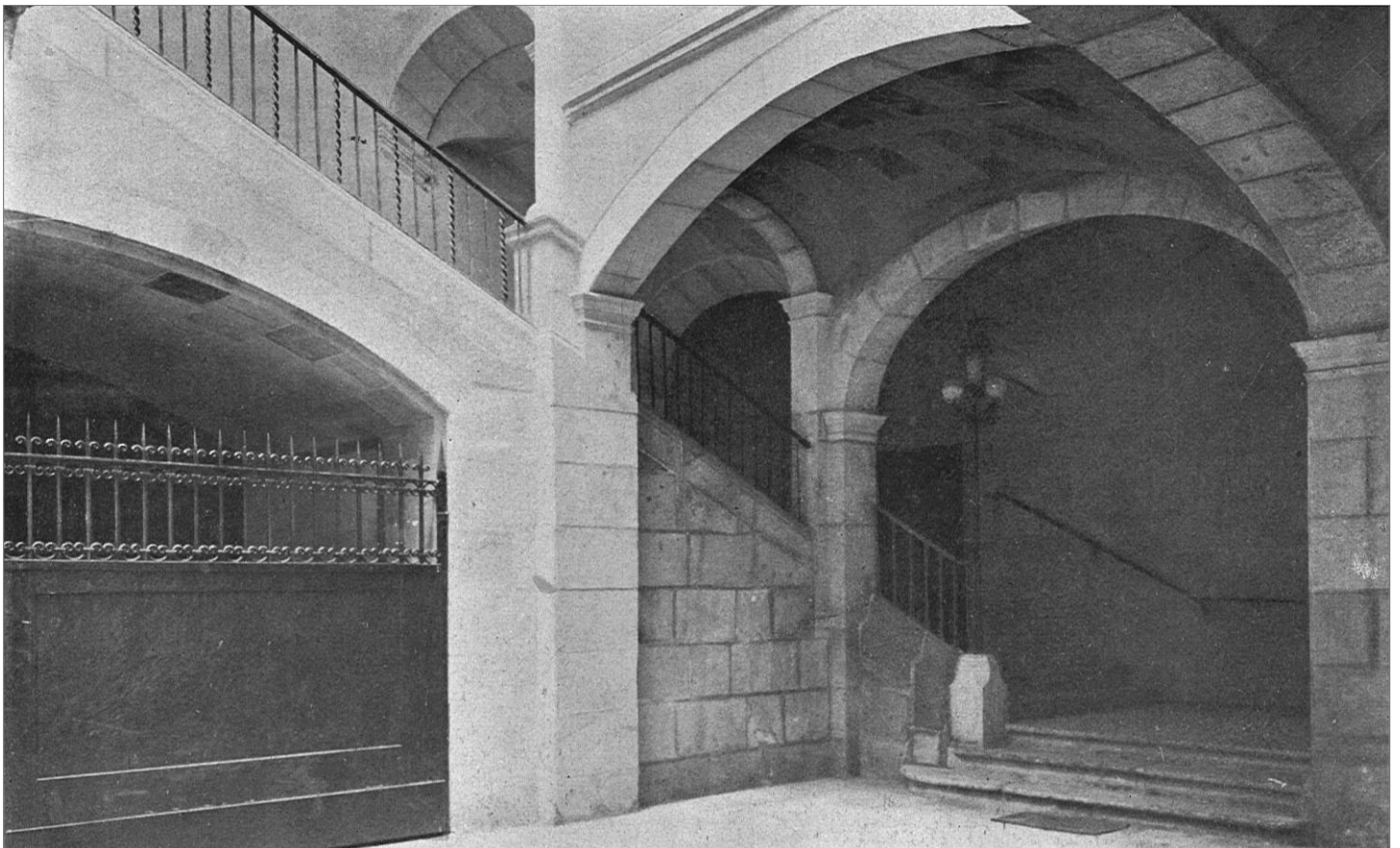


5. **“Sants Just i Pastor” Basilica**. Ignatius was in this basilica listening to a sermon in March 1523, before embarking for Jerusalem, when Isabel Roser felt moved to call him to converse, and advised him to change to another ship, since she guessed that his first choice ship was in poor condition. In fact her advice was right, since the first ship sank just after leaving the harbor.

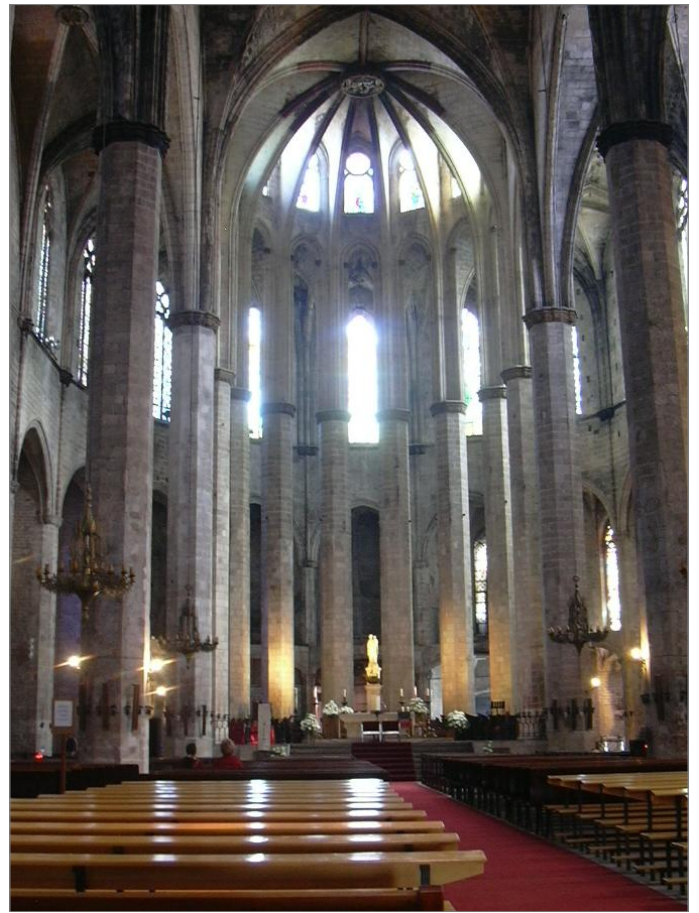
5. In front of this church, the **house of Isabel Roser** still remains (however, the serigraphs on the facade are modern) .



5. Many of Ignatius's meetings with **prominent women of Barcelona**, who helped him during his studies, were held here.

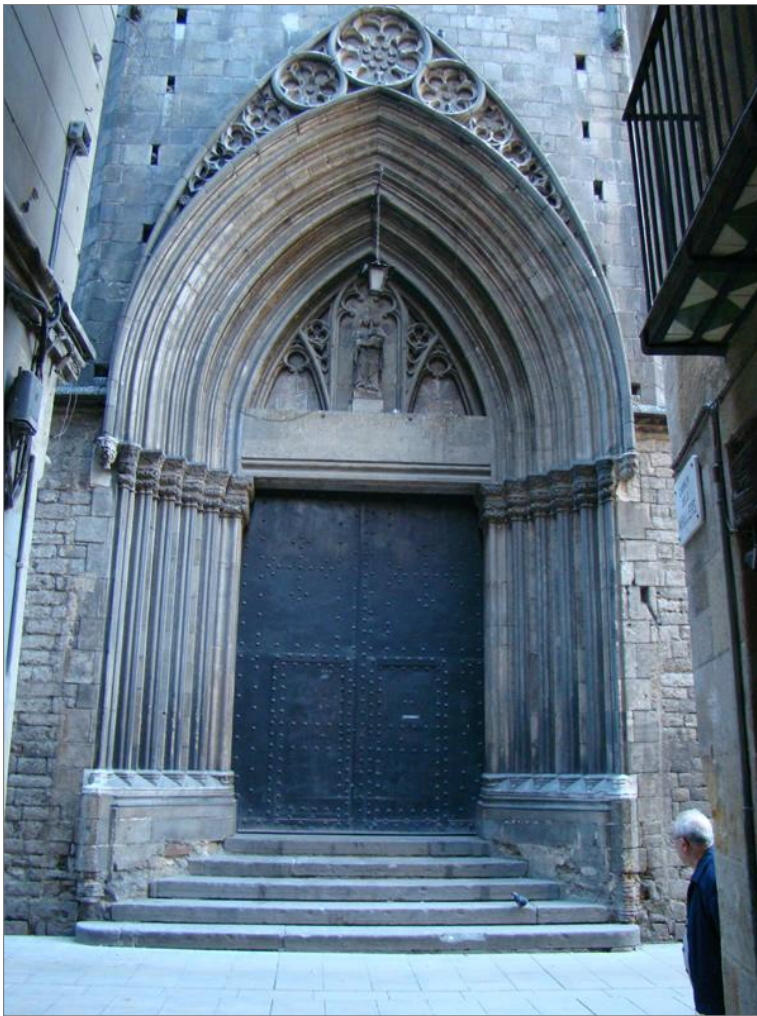


6. The Church of “**Santa Maria del Mar**” (Our Lady of the Sea), a magnificent temple of Catalan Gothic architecture, built from 1329 until 1383.



6. **Maestro Ardévol**, Ignatius's Latin professor, lived in a house on “Carrer Sombrerers” (Hatters' Street) across from the side door of Santa Maria del Mar. The number is not known .

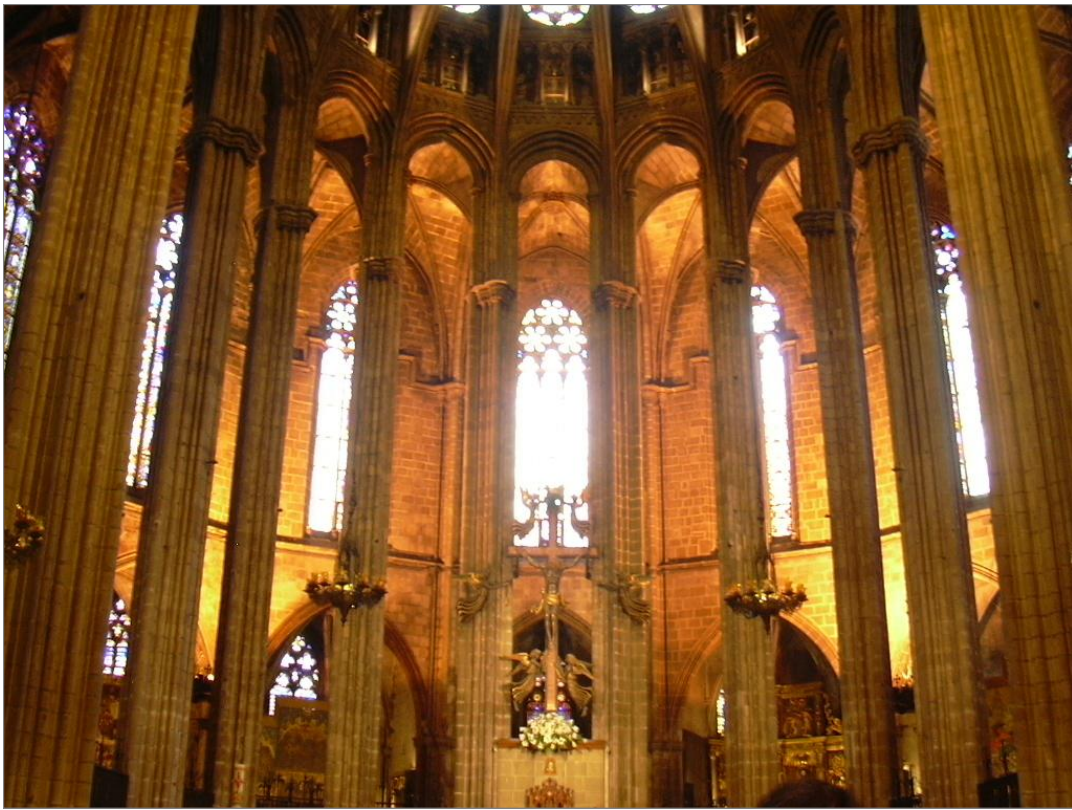




6. Ignatius, with his teacher, **entered the Church through this door** to promise him while *“sitting”* inside, that he would not allow his fervidness to interfere with his lessons, and to ask his teacher to punish him if he had not learned the lesson.



6. Next to the same left-side door, but inside the temple, at the foot of the **holy water fountain**, there is a **plaque** showing the exact place where Ignatius sat while begging.



- Under the presbytery of the Cathedral is found the **crypt of “Santa Eulalia”**, which was finished in 1339. In Ignatius's times this was the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, where he spent long hours of prayer.



- “**Casa de l’Ardiaca**” (House of the Archdeacon), where the City Archives are kept at present. It was rented from the Diocese by Charles the Fifth to lodge Francis Borgia and his family when he was named Viceroy of Catalonia (1539 to 1545).



- Here, in late February 1542, the Viceroy received a visit from **Blessed Peter Faber**, and the process of his vocation to the Society of Jesus began.



7. Ignatius was begging on the “**Carrer Ample**” (High Street), then the main street of the city, when he was reprimanded by **Eleonor Ferrer de Zapila**, later on one of his most fervent followers.

8. On a bench at the beach, Ignatius left the little pocket money he had left when he embarked toward **Jerusalem**.

9. On the “Carrer Benlloc” which extended from the “Llull” plain until the sea, in the fifth house on the left side coming from the sea”—according to an eyewitness— a man called Lisanio hanged himself, and **he recovered his life thanks to Ignatius**. This site corresponds to a place near the Borne market –now under archaeological research– near the place where in the 18th century the “**Carrer del Rec**” (Irrigation Ditch Street), with its porches, was opened.



10. The **“Portal de Sant Daniel”** (Saint Daniel's Gate), which has just been discovered in the **“Parc de la Ciutatella”** (Citadel Park). [Impossible to see it because it has been covered up again]. This is the place where Ignatius was brutally beaten, such that he was bedridden for a month, when in 1524 he was returning from the **“Monestir dels Sants Angels”** (Saint Angels Monastery) that was on the old road to Mataró –at present on the junction of **“Avinguda del Bogatell”** (Bogatell Avenue) and **“Carrer Pere IV** (Peter the Fourth Street) and **“Avinguda Carles I”** (Charles the First Avenue)–. This Monastery has moved many times, and finally, some years ago, was definitely located in the nearby town of **“Sant Cugat del Valles”** .



11. During his first stay in Barcelona, when Ignatius looked for spiritual persons to talk to, he had already visited the **“Vall de Hebron”** (Hebron Valley) **Hieronymite Fathers** at their hermitages spread all over the **“Sant Genis dels Agudells”** mountain, around the village of Horta. This monastery was completely demolished during one of the many revolutions in that area throughout the 19th century.

But the **hermitage of St. Cyprian** still exists.



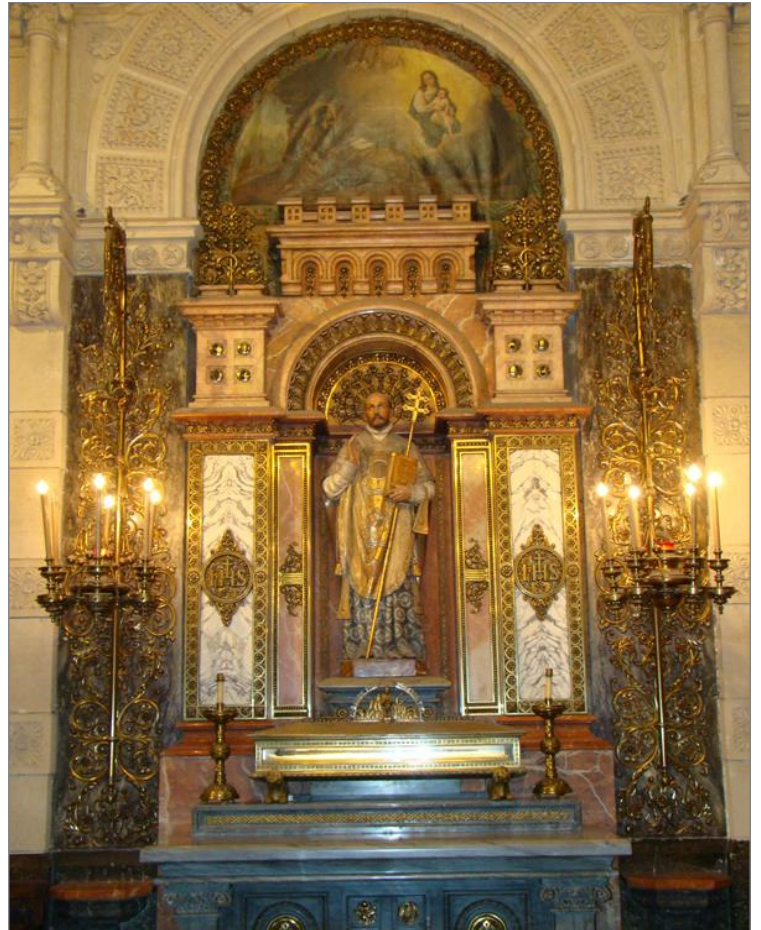
- Here we can see an interior view of the hermitage of St. Cyprian:



- In the “Plaça Padró” (Padró Square) next to the chapel of “Sant Llatzer” (Saint Lazarus), which is at present the headquarters of the Saint Egid Community, at the junction of the streets of “Hospital” and “Carme”, was located the “**Monestir de Sant Matias**” (Saint Matthias Monastery), belonging to the Hieronymite Nuns, a place that Ignatius used to visit, where he used to receive some alms *“and something to eat for his maintenance”*. In the last century the monastery was moved to “**Bellesguard**” on the hillside of Tibidabo .
- The “**Santa Clara**” **Monastery** that Ignatius used to visit often –the Benedictine nuns were already there– was near the “Saint Daniel” gate, but inside to city wall. This monastery was destroyed by Philip the Fifth in 1715 in order to build the Citadel. Nowadays it is located on the skirt of **Montserrat**, not far from the Abby of the monks. This was the residence of Sister Teresa Rejadell, to whom Ignatius later wrote some of most beautiful letters on discernment.

The sword of Saint Ignatius

- From March 7, 1907 on, at the **Jesuit Church of the Sacred Heart**, the **true sword** that Ignatius left at Montserrat, together with his dagger and sword belt, were kept, although the last two elements disappeared very early on. The sword was held at Montserrat as a votive offering until the beginning of the 17th century, when it was given to the “Col·legi de la Mare de Déu de Betlem” belonging to the Society of Jesus. The expulsion and later suppression of the Jesuits in 1773 did not affect the conservation of the sword in that temple, which then became the “Parròquia de la Mare de Déu del Carme” (Our Lady of Carmel Parish Church).



- **Saint Ignatius Altar**, showing the vaulted niche where the sword is kept. **Antoni Gaudi** was President of the selection committee which had to decide who would design the vaulted niche.

The sword of Saint Ignatius

- The sword, including its hilt where the sword guard is missing, is 115 cm. long. Visibly apparent are the **marks of the Toledo Guild** where it was made: that of the swordmaker as well as the gentleman owner, YY (Yñigo Yañez), that was Ignatius's name before his conversion.

