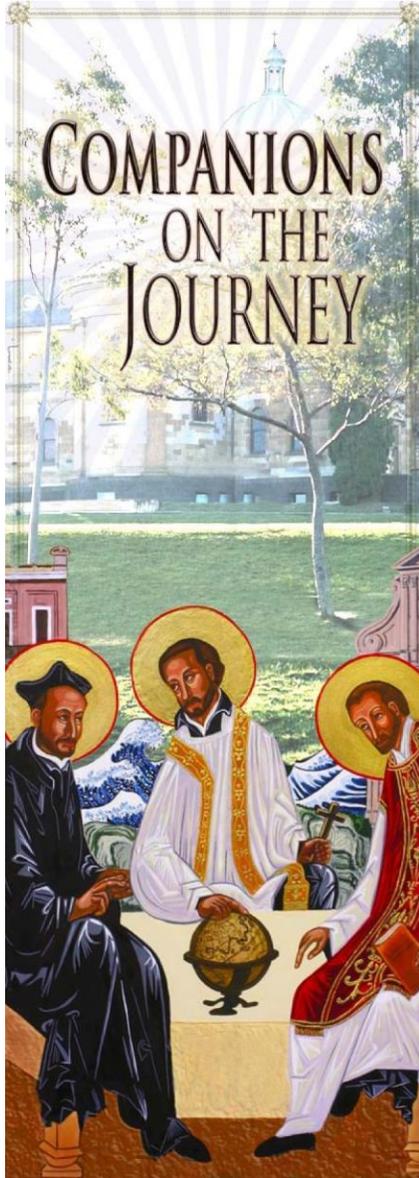


The Australian Province
of the Society of Jesus

Companions Medal



"The Three Companions of Jesus"
by George Drance SJ

Fr Brian McCoy SJ
Provincial

Kerry James

Kerry James and his family joined the Riverview community in 1988 when Daniel commenced as a Year Six student. Kerry soon offered his services to the College and displayed exceptional competence, generosity and leadership. Responsibilities included chairing the Bursary committee, which ensured worthy recipients were able to receive a Riverview education despite limited financial means.

As a member of the College Council, he was active in a number of roles, including membership of the Finance Committee and heading the Strategic Planning Committee (1997). The latter resulted in more responsibilities, leading committees for Boarding at the college and the development of a middle school. He became Chairman of the Plant and Fabric committee and coached the senior Australian Rules Football team. Kerry's involvement went well beyond Riverview. While principal of Loyola Senior High School, Mount Druitt, Fr Brendan Kelly praised Kerry and his wife Christina in these words:

'The accolades for Kerry must be shared with Christina, who along with Barbara Peatman, a Riverview staff member at the time, ran the valued group of supporters and fundraisers called the Friends of Loyola, originally started by Helen Meehan, the sister of Ross Jones SJ, the first Principal of the school'.

In addition to assisting Christina with the development of an extensive bursary system for the students at Loyola, one of Kerry's significant achievements there was bringing the students into contact with the Victor Chang Heart Foundation.

Furthermore, he assisted the Holy Family parish at Mt Druitt with the renovation of the presbytery's kitchen and succeeded in connecting the parish with Western Sydney Health services, thus enabling a much-needed clinic to be conducted on the parish site. Kerry also helped secure the purchase of one of the two novitiate houses in the parish and contributed generously to its refurbishment.

Other contributions to the Jesuit Province included chairing the inaugural Jesuit Foundation and the Peter Canisius House Management Committee. The latter brought about a series of improvements at Canisius, including long overdue upgrades to facilities. Kerry was also Chair of Magis08, and currently provides significant guidance regarding the management of our Jesuit holiday houses.

Kerry is a man who works quietly and effectively behind the scenes, rather than seeking the limelight. At all times he has been alert to those most needy in our communities and sought ways to advance their prospects in life. Today's awarding of a Companions Medal is a fitting acknowledgment of the talents and time he has generously committed across a wide range of Jesuit and Catholic ministries for over 25 years.

Our appreciation and esteem for Kerry are not just on account of what he has done, but for the person that he is. Kerry, so many of us in the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus feel privileged to have been welcomed by you, Christina and family as friends and beneficiaries of your hospitality, wise counsel and encouragement. You have been a true and faithful companion, and so we take great pleasure in presenting you with this Companions Medal.

Thank you, Kerry

Date: 24th April 2019