

Companions Medal



"The Three Companions of Jesus"
by George Drance SJ

Professor Maryanne Confoy, RSC is an Australian theologian of international standing in the area of pastoral and spiritual theology. Since joining the faculty of Jesuit Theological College in 1997, as its first female member, she has made an incomparable contribution to the teaching, research and formation ministry of the Australian Province. Her expertise, both theoretical and practical, in the area of spirituality and the human life cycle has had a unique impact on generations of students in the ecumenical context of the United Faculty of Theology, a context that she greatly valued and supported, including three years as Faculty President (2002-2004).

As pastoral director at JTC, Maryanne has nurtured the faith, reflectiveness and ministerial confidence of scores of Jesuit students. Her engaging teaching style, her ability to challenge without alienating, and her passionate commitment to human freedom and growth make a lasting impression upon all who take her classes or seek her out for spiritual counsel.

Maryanne joined our faculty just as many young Jesuits from overseas provinces were arriving for theological studies. Lacking hitherto any female involvement in their human or intellectual formation, they found Maryanne's welcoming and encouraging presence transformative for them in both areas. Since the wind-up of our Jesuit faculty in 2014, Maryanne has continued to assist our formation process in this role, including the direction of overseas Jesuits in postgraduate degrees as a faculty member of the Jesuit College of Spirituality, whose growth she has also nurtured.

For over two decades Maryanne has been a devoted companion in the mission of the Province. She has most generously and effectively brought the distinctive Ignatian spirituality and pastoral vision of the Religious Sisters of Charity to our own Jesuit charism. As such and in so many ways she is a most worthy recipient of the Companions Medal.

Thank you, Maryanne.