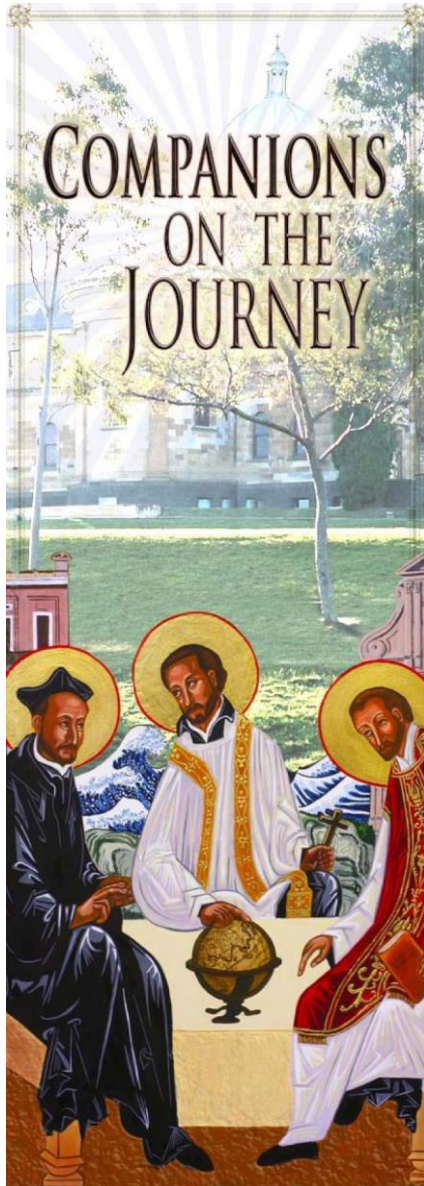


## Companions Medal



*Professor Marie Emmitt has had a long and distinguished career in education, culminating in her current appointment as Executive Dean of Education at Australian Catholic University, overseeing perhaps the largest education faculty in Australia, spread over five campuses. She has had a distinguished academic career, focusing on literacy education, in which area she has presented and published internationally, and supported schools and teachers within Australia. Her strength has been her combination of a strong academic contribution partnered with a strong support for the different school sectors and teachers.*

*Through this, Marie has contributed enormously to the educational ministries of a number of Religious Orders, and the Society of Jesus has been one of the great beneficiaries of her generosity.*

*Marie was a Xavier parent. She served on the Xavier College Council from 1996 to 2005, and on the Riverview Council in 2008 and 2009. From its inception she has served on the Jesuit Schools Commission, to which she has made a very significant contribution through her academic strength, her wide school experience, and her spirituality; all to the benefit of the Jesuit schools and partner schools throughout Australia.*

*In recent years, she has been a strong supporter of two of the initiatives in which the Jesuit-Asia Pacific Conference is involved. She was a founding member of the Refugee Tertiary Education Committee (RTEC) in 2000, which had the goal of providing higher education to camp-based refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border through a mixture of online and distant education. The pilot program offered by the ACU to refugees from Myanmar proved successful and then was taken up by other universities, including Open Universities Australia (OUA) and Jesuit universities in the United States. These programs offer opportunity and hope to many refugees.*

*Moreover, Marie's contribution has been more than administrative. In 2003 she lived with refugees at Mae La Camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. This experience deepened her identification with people who have been forcibly displaced. She has made access to tertiary education for refugees a matter of social and economic justice.*

*In East Timor, Marie has been a major force in the planning of the new Jesuit Colegio de Santo Inacio de Loiola at Kasait, west of Dili and in the development of its ethos and curriculum. She is now involved in the commencement of the Jesuit teacher training institute associated with the school, complementing her strong work with ACU's own teacher training role in East Timor.*

*Above all, Marie has embraced Jesuit spirituality, and been an example and model of partnership with the Jesuits and laity in the ministries of the Province. She has been a good and supportive friend to many Jesuits and lay leaders in our Province.*

*Thank you Marie.*