

Grace Wrakia's Appointment As Lasallian Family Coordinator Extended Two Years

The Lasallian Foundation is excited to announce that Grace Wrakia, the Lasallian Family Coordinator in Papua New Guinea, has agreed to stay in this position for two more years. Ms Wrakia joined the Lasallian Foundation in this role in 2018. Her work since then has supported educators and leaders inside and outside the Lasallian Family.

Additionally, Ms Wrakia has been appointed Chair of the Papua New Guinea Sector Mission Council. We look forward to serving more people and further expanding our work with Grace as part of the organisation.

The Lasallian Family Coordinator position vital to our Papua New Guinea outreach. Grace created a Formation Plan to support Lasallian educators, teachers considering joining the family, and other educators searching for Christian professional development. As part of this project, Ms Wrakia developed training materials, coordinated and spoke at educational conferences, and worked with international branches of the Lasallian Family. She also expanded communications to include newsletters, magazines, email campaigns, WhatsApp groups, and a Facebook group.

Grace has worked to improve the PNG Lasallian Family's organisation and streamline operations. To this aim, she compiled a Guiding Policy Handbook through a collaborative, member-driven process. The handbook describes the Family's structure, mission, vision, memberships, meetings, and more. Other organisational projects include developing a member database, building a financial records system, and renewing two school memorandums of understanding (MOUs).

Other meaningful Family Coordinator responsibilities include regular reporting, representing the organisation at meetings, planning events, collecting fees, assisting members with international travel, and more.

Grace is the first layperson to serve as the Lasallian Family Coordinator. This has not caused any problems in her performance. She received very positive commendations in her mid-contract performance review in 2022. Participants praised her "connection with her faith and the Lasallian values," technical expertise, leadership, and interpersonal skills.

Julie Alibrandi, the Director of Operations at the Lasallian Mission Council, closed the report by noting, "Grace has done *'a marvellous job'* in developing her busy role over many years. The panel expresses its significant appreciation of her fine work."

The De La Salle Brothers created the Lasallian Foundation in 2004 to support educational initiatives and other deserving projects in the Asia-Pacific region. These projects have provided non-denominational support to countless young people throughout the region. The Foundation focuses on raising up the marginalised who lack

other options. Providing education, training, and improved welfare to young people has been the De La Salle Brothers' primary mission for more than 300 years.

The Lasallian Foundation currently concentrates on projects in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. In the past two decades, the Foundation has supported work in Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and South Sudan.

Grace has already touched many lives as the Lasallian Family Coordinator. We know she will help expand our projects even further as the new Chair of the PNG Sector Mission Council. Sector Mission Councils are charged with developing and enacting a plan with clear action items and responsibilities for their sector. This work provides leadership, development, promotion, and growth. The Council is responsible for the sector's budgets including external financial audits, funding sources, and ongoing financial viability. Grace will work in consultation with other Lasallian groups to build and strengthen our networks.

Ms Wrakia has been a priceless asset to the Lasallian Foundation since she joined our work in 2018. We are thankful for the expertise, skill, and devotion she brings to our mission. We look forward to improving lives in Papua New Guinea and the broader region with Grace Wrakia's extended appointment as the PNG Lasallian Family Coordinator and the new Chair of the PNG Sector Mission Council.

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SOURCES USED:

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