

Notes from Fr. Nick

Fr. Wilson Sagayaraj, SVD

Please welcome Fr. A. Wilson Sagayaraj, SVD, to our parish. Fr. Wilson will live here while studying for his doctorate at the Jesuit School of Theology. In his mid-forties, he hails from Tiruchirappalli, India, and was ordained to the priesthood for the Society of the Divine Word in 2010.

Fr. Wilson's ministries in India are many: he is the Director of the Divine Word Centre in Vadipatti, (Tamil Nadu), the founder and editor of Divine Word Publications, editor of the monthly magazine, *Vesuvoin Arulmozhi*, the Apostolate Coordinator of Hyderabad Province, the National Biblical Coordinator of the Society of the Divine Word in India, and a visiting faculty member at six theological seminaries. I hope Wilson will be able to delegate some of these responsibilities during his time here in Berkeley, so that he can concentrate on his academic work here and also enjoy some personal time.

Fr. Wilson is the first in his family to receive a university degree. His parents and brother are farmers. He holds a Baccalaureate in Theology and Philosophy, as well as a B.A. from Madras University and a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture. These degrees should place him well for his doctoral studies at JST.

For his doctoral studies, Fr. Wilson plans to write about the unique nature of human beings' sharing meals, and how Jesus revolutionizes the meal into a forum for social change. He states: *"Jesus' table fellowship was all inclusiveness. In a world which is increasingly becoming hostile, divided on culture, language, religion, wealth, caste, and ethnicity, the meal can be an occasion of celebration of mutual acceptance, inclusion, equality and integration."*

It's been a while since I have had someone living in the rectory with me. It will be good to have company once again. I'm also looking forward to an additional priest for liturgies and ministry. While Fr. Wilson's primary work will be completion of his degree, we hope he will look back on his years at St. Mary Magdalen with fondness, and that we will benefit spiritually from his life with us.



Fr. Wilson Sagayaraj, SVD