

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. *Leviticus 19: 9-10*

## **Paul and Laurie Vavuris**

“We are gleaners,” Paul Vavuris says about the work that he and his wife, Laurie, do for the South Palo Alto Interfaith Food Closet. When foodstuffs near their expiration date, the store removes them from their shelves. Paul and other volunteers pick up these foods and distribute them to the needy. People get referral slips to the food closet from the Urban Ministry and they can renew these slips for as long as they can show need. Laurie says, “There’s no excuse for anyone being hungry.”

Paul and Laurie Vavuris have been members of Our Lady of the Rosary’s congregation since it was established in 1954, and all nine of their children attended school there. In addition to Paul’s work at the Food Closet, he is active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, and is on the board of the Serra Club. He is an usher at the 10:30am Mass, serves on the Building and Maintenance Committee, and volunteers at the Wednesday night SOUP dinners.

Laurie is also active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Wednesday night SOUP dinners. In addition, she organizes the November Food Drive, the December Giving Tree, and the May Layette Month at all three churches. She also helps with funeral receptions at Our Lady of the Rosary and assists with the Holy Week seder dinners.

The Vavurises have witnessed many instances where an urgent need is miraculously met. Although some might call these coincidences, Paul and Laurie know that it is the intercession of the Holy Spirit. As Laurie says, “If you don’t get in the Lord’s way, things work out pretty good.”

By Ellen Miller