



# **CLASS OF 2018**

## **CRUSADER OF THE MONTH**

### **Jacob Elan Martinez**

**MONTH HONORED: November 2017**

#### **Jacob Martinez was selected by Mrs. Peg Alexander**

I have known Jacob since almost his first day at MCC, and I have had the privilege and the fun of watching him grow into a fine young man. In that time, I have come to know a Crusader who has learned the value of a supportive family, caring teachers, and hard work. Jacob has come to embody the spirit of MCC and to represent it to the entire community.

When I chose Jacob as my student of the month, I knew immediately that I had made the right choice by the responses of other teachers and staff members at MCC. After hearing "great choice," "awesome choice," "great choice," I also began hearing some of the reasons why.

Many of his teachers report that Jacob is always respectful and is a great example for the other students, especially the younger ones – which is good, because many younger kids look up to him. Others commented on his maturity and the growth he has shown in his four years at MCC. They say that he is an all-around positive guy.

Jacob is developing into a leader. Mrs. Stalzer commented that Jacob always stands up for what is right in class. He is willing to be a leader and do the right thing even if it is not what the majority agrees with.

Mr. Koczer tells me that Jacob has really taken his faith seriously. He is a leader among WINGS, an altar server, and always the first to share his faith with others. When on retreats, students get the chance for WINGS members to pray over them. A majority of students go to Jacob for this. Jacob is not afraid to give his story to students, which usually leaves them with a greater appreciation for their own situation as well as seeing how God can work in their lives.

Mr. Mabrito recognizes that Jacob is a great student to have in class. His positive attitude and outlook on life have a great impact on the class atmosphere and the students in it. While Jacob is definitely a student on the lookout for a bit of fun and even mischief, it all comes from a good heart and good intentions. If all of us could go through life with the spark of fun and interest in the world that Jacob has, the world would be a much brighter place.

Jacob shows that he cares for others; many times at lunch he sits with students who have no one to sit with. For his senior project, he is working to put on a fancy meal for the residents of either the Men's or Women's shelter. He has worked at food trucks, dog shelters, and at his "old school" in Texas helping kids with their sports activities.

It is wonderful to see how Jacob is blossoming in his senior year. His hard work in athletics has been recognized with All-State honors for football. For the first time, he is serving as a member of the Student Council. Jacob will perform this weekend in his first-ever Floodlight Fever, and rumor has it that he may try out for the spring musical.

After high school, Jacob's immediate plans are to attend college (hopefully Northwood University) to study entrepreneurship and marketing. Wherever he attends school and whatever career path he chooses, I know that he will continue to make all of us at MCC very proud of him.

As I said at the beginning, it has been rewarding to watch Jacob grow these last four years into a young man who takes every opportunity to use the gifts that God has given him to improve himself and the world around him.

Jacob is the son of Mark Martinez and Sylvia Garcia, and he attends St. Mary's Church in Muskegon.



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## **Zoie Ann Price**

**MONTH HONORED: November 2017**

**Zoie Price was selected by Mr. Matt Callow**

Zoie is a terrific student in the classroom and a perfect choice as a student who demonstrates character, compassion, and commitment. She is an extremely hard-working individual who strives for the best in all that she does. I had Zoie in several math classes, including AP Calculus. Zoie, when working in groups, always keeps her group working and on task. She is ready to take on any and all tasks in class – including working through tough questions, solving problems most students have nightmares about, taking several AP classes and always helping those around her when they have a question or concern. Zoie is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society.

Zoie is a leader outside of the classroom as well. I coach Zoie on the Varsity girls' basketball team. Zoie leads by example every day on the gym floor. She was a member of the volleyball team and participated in soccer for her first two years of high school. She enjoys the challenge of competing against others on the court or field of play. She has a determination and will to win both on and off the court.

Aristotle once said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." This quote holds true for Zoie. She consistently makes the correct choice, and this is why she stands out as a student, athlete, and leader in the school community.

Zoie strives to be excellent in all that she does. She does not reflect this in a single act or with a single grade in a class or on an assignment, rather she shows this with the way she acts all the time. She always wants to help others, even taking time away from school to help volunteer with the Children's Food Basket.

Zoie is unsure where she will attend college next fall or what she will study. Although a distinct path remains unknown to Zoie, she will do well in her upcoming endeavors because of her knowledge, work ethic, and determination. Zoie is a logical thinker and keeps a level head in all that she does. She is always willing to help someone out and never asks "what's in it for me?" She helps because she truly cares about other people. She puts others before herself, and that is the ultimate sign of a true Crusader. Her ability to take tough courses and succeed in these courses will help her gain a degree, but her compassion for others will make her an outstanding leader. Her willingness and courage to stand up for what she believes in will take her wherever she wants to go.

Zoie the daughter of Paul and Beth Price and attends Sacred Heart Church.