



2018 Grand Marshal, Frank Cruz

Frank Cruz has been a West Side Saint Paul resident since the age of two after his parents migrated to Minnesota from Tepatitlan, Jalisco in the 1930s. For over 58 years, Cruz has been a loving father and husband raising his 7 children in West Side Saint Paul and also physically building his church, Our Lady Guadalupe for the community. Cruz has attended every West Side Cinco de Mayo festival since the beginning while also marching in the parade as a color guard for 13 years.

Cruz is described as someone who has never met a stranger and if you ever get a chance to meet him, you will know just how much the West Side community means to him. He has volunteered many hours throughout the community and has donated food, goods, and even money to institutions such as Neighborhood House and to local West Side residents. Volunteering is something Cruz takes pride in and even taught the importance of volunteering to his children and his grandchildren.

Since the age of 16, Cruz has been a member of Labor Union Local #132. He worked outside on days that reached 100 degrees and days that reached below zero temperatures. He has worked on many important Saint Paul buildings such as the Inter-Continental Hotel, Robert St. Bridge, and Sibley Manor. Despite his long work hours, Cruz always attended community meetings, bringing along his children and telling them they had the right to know what is going on in their community and have the right to seek change when things are wrong.

Cruz is very vocal about issues regarding the West Side community, reaching out to public officials on numerous occasions and expressing his concerns about potholes in the roads, plowing, school levies, and other concerning topics.

Frank Cruz is someone who takes pride in his community, doing so by volunteering and speaking up about issues concerning him and the residents of West Side Saint Paul community. Cruz will give the shirt off his back to anyone who needs it. His loyalty and devotion made him the perfected candidate to be honored as this year's Grand Marshal during the Cinco de Mayo – West Side Saint Paul parade.
