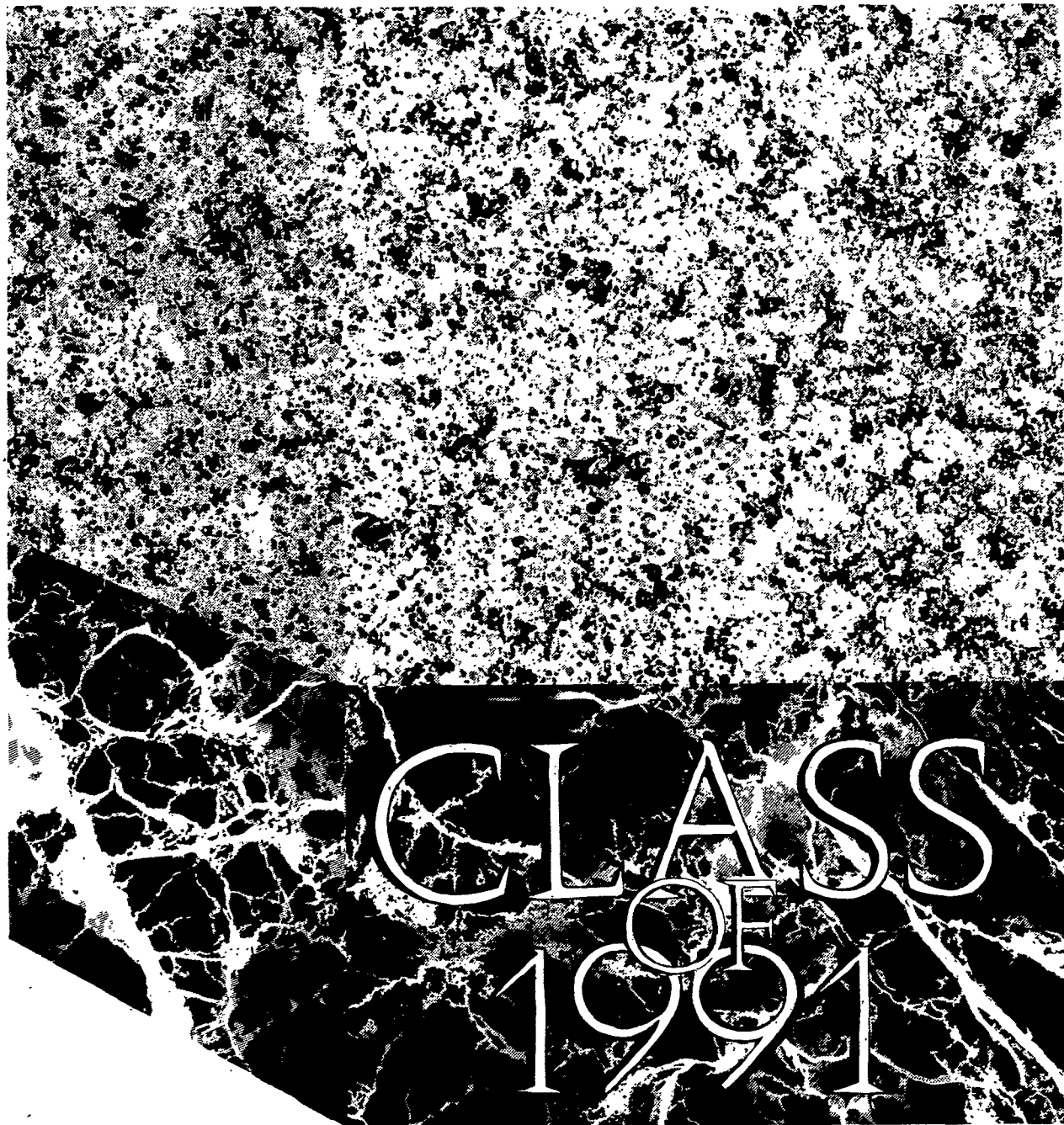


WE BELIEVE IN THE

FUTURE

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Graduates spark hope for future

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Ralph Waldo Emerson once observed, "This world belongs to the energetic."

Although energy does not dissipate with time, it can change form. And so it is that from generation to generation, the energy that sparks the future takes the form of youth.

In contrast to the "Me Generation" of the 1980s, people of all ages today are returning to such basic values as compassion, concern and understanding.

That's why some observers already have tabbed youths growing up in this decade as the "We Generation."

In a recent Public Broadcasting Service program entitled "Cool Moves — Teens Together," Malcolm-Jamal Warner of the popular NBC sitcom "The Cosby Show" put the spotlight on high school students who are taking responsibility for their future.

The PBS special showed how teens across the country are making a difference in their schools, their communities and the world. Among those catching the TV producers' eyes were youths in the state of Washington who started a school recycling program; Michigan teenagers who opened their own alcohol-free dance club; and young people in Springfield, Mass., who started their own junior credit union.

Teenagers from many areas of the country are taking an active part in preparing a better future. In fact, many high school students in the Rochester diocese are taking a large role in helping today's society.

DeSales senior Matthew F. Tette said many world problems need to be addressed. Tette, who will graduate on June 23, believes he can make a difference in tomorrow's world by being active in government and voicing his opinions.

"I will speak my opinion, stand up for what I believe in, reach out to others who need help and actively participate," he explained.

Our Lady of Mercy senior Nathalie White said she believes young people should strive not only to make the world a better place for their parents, but also a healthier society for their children.

"Through my knowledge and guidance, I hope to make the world a better place to live," said White, who will graduate June 19.

In the pages that follow, the *Catholic Courier* profiles four students who have the energy to change the world for the better. Whether they are serving the church, the environment, their families or their peers, these youths hold the spark of a brighter future.

The *Catholic Courier* salutes all members of the Class of 1991.

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