

# CLASS OF 1993

SPECIAL CATHOLIC COURIER PULLOUT — JUNE 10, 1993



Somewhere during nearly every commencement address, the featured speaker comes to the part about obstacles one must face as he or she ventures out into the "real world."

Yet those words, while well-intentioned, don't shed much new light for a vast number of high school graduates.

Graduates who will remind you that life's immense struggles are not limited to those in their adult years.

Graduates who are forced to hurdle many of life's obstacles long before commencement day ever arrives.

Young men and women who traverse those fields every day. While many of their peers have basked in the glory of youth, these teenagers have had to grow up in a hurry.

This year's annual graduation supplement features four high-school seniors who — in distinctively different ways — have been faced with situations that most people are unlikely to encounter in their adolescent years.

In times when one out of four students drops out of high school for many reasons, these young people deserve recognition because they have not allowed adversity to stand in the way of personal fulfillment.

The following four seniors have generously shared their wisdom along with the ways in which they have persevered through hard times:

- A Rochester youth and his friend utilize their abilities as graffiti artists (their work is displayed in the photo above) to carve out a living in the ghetto.
- Despite having part of his leg amputated at the age of 5, an Elmira Notre Dame student is active in his community through athletics.
- A Webster girl selflessly and cheerfully spends much of her free time caring for her disabled sister.
- And, by volunteering his acting abilities, a boy from a neighboring town shares a community's grief after three junior-class members were killed in an automobile accident.

These young people have survived both physically and spiritually. When it comes to the part about "the real world," all four would be overwhelmingly qualified to step up to the microphone.

Congratulations to these and all the high school seniors graduating throughout the diocese this year. The *Catholic Courier* salutes you for a job well done.

**By Mike Latona, Staff writer**

**With contributions by Elena M. Cambio & Pamela M. Close**