

## Nazareth's first lay principal is hands on 'I will be in the classrooms'

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Calling the shots from behind a desk is an administrative style that will never suit Olena Lylak.

In fact, despite her recent appointment as Nazareth Academy's new principal, Lylak doesn't see herself becoming any less visible than she was in her previous Nazareth roles as teacher and dean of students.

"I do like the hands-on approach. I will be in the classrooms; that will be my goal. I'm not even opposed to still going into the classroom and teaching," the 40-year-old Lylak commented.

Lylak began her administrative duties this past July 1 at Nazareth Academy, an all-girls' high school located at 1001 Lake Ave. The principal's position became open when Sister Ann Collins, SSJ, moved into the newly created role of executive director for The Nazareth Schools.

This three-school system also includes Nazareth Hall Junior High School, a co-educational institution for grades 6-8 located at Nazareth Academy; and Nazareth Hall Elementary School, a pre-kindergarten through grade 5 school located at 180 Raines Park.

Lylak's appointment is significant because she is the first lay person to serve as principal in the history of Nazareth Academy or Nazareth Hall. All previous principals were members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the order of women religious that has owned and operated the three Nazareth schools since they were founded in the late 1800s.



Olena Lylak is the first lay principal of Nazareth Academy and Nazareth Hall since the schools' founding in the late 1800s.

Despite this trend of SSJ principals, Lylak did not hesitate to submit her application when the opening was announced in late May.

"I don't generally set out for things I don't think I'd be good at," she remarked.

Yet she also acknowledged that "historically it's a big move, so I have to break new ground."

At the top of her agenda is the implementation of a "mentorship" program to enhance rapport between teachers and students, as well as between department heads and teachers.

"I want people to say, 'Let's work this out.' Collaboratively, you can work out problems," said Lylak.

Lylak's open-

communication policy should fit well into Nazareth's emphasis on becoming recognized as one school system rather than three separate institutions.

"We're working as a team; we set goals and visions together," she said. "We're definitely working in a very different mode than we ever have before. I think that's healthy and good for the facilitation of ideas."

In addition to adjustments in internal communications, the new principal also did not rule out the possibility of a change more visible to the general public: Nazareth Academy becoming a co-educational facility for the first time.

"It's never been discussed formally, but someday, who knows? You don't know how things might change seven years from now," she remarked.

Lylak was born in Bradford-Yorkshire, England, and moved to the United States in 1975. Among her previous teaching assignments were stints at two Catholic elementary schools in Rochester: St. Josaphat's (1976-77) and St. Ambrose (1983-88).

She came to Nazareth Academy in 1989 and taught economics, U.S. history and government. Lylak served as dean of students during the 1992-93 school year.

Lylak, her husband, Eugene, and three children reside in the town of Greece. They are parishioners at Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Epiphany in Rochester.

Two of Lylak's three children are enrolled at The Nazareth Schools. Daughter Oksana, 14, will be a freshman at Nazareth Academy this fall; and son Markiyon, 11, will be a sixth-grader at Nazareth Hall Middle School. Lylak also has a daughter Yvanka, 6.

## Tyburn gets headmaster

AUBURN — Tyburn Academy, an independent school with a Catholic orientation, has named Eric Stouz of Ventura, Ca., as its first headmaster.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University and Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Ca., Stouz taught in public and private schools in California. He is certified to teach secondary-school social studies in California, and is seeking provisional certification in New York state.

The academy is scheduled to open in September at 79 Columbus St. For the 1993-94 school year, it will offer a ninth-grade program. The school will add one grade level each subsequent year until it offers a complete four-year high school program.

To register for Tyburn Academy, call 315/685-3006.

## Tourney raises \$24,500 for school

PENFIELD — Approximately \$24,500 was raised from the eighth annual Holy Childhood Ladies' Golf Tournament, held July 12 at Shadow Pines Golf Club.

Low gross winners were the team of Boots Maginness, Ginny Kellogg, Patsy Beers and Debbie Lawrence. Low net honors went to the quartet of Sylvia Korn, Peg Barry, Bonnie Lee and Shirley Acker.

Funds raised from the tournament will support the School of the Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Henrietta. Conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the school provides education and support for mentally retarded children and adults.

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