



Diamonds of Dorchester

Honoree: Board Chair Introductory Remarks

- **Passionate; committed; creative; tireless; compassionate.** All of these are adjectives used in describing Judy in her role as President of St. Mary's.
- And, all of these are true! But – let me tell you a few others, based on my own experience of my good friend, Judy.
- She is **relentless!** Whether she's going after funding for the expansion of a St. Mary's education program or she's working with State officials to break down barriers to economic self-sufficiency or, she's simply trying to get you to do something that you don't necessarily want to do – she doesn't give up, there are no barriers too high to scale! And, she doesn't let you off the hook!
- She is **entrenched** in her commitment to fight for the underserved, to fight for justice. And that is an entrenchment she learned as a very young child in a family of six. She carried that entrenchment to Northern Ireland in her early career, working with two emerging women's centers, providing consultation and technical assistance in the areas of domestic violence, trauma, children's service, and administrative systems development.
- She is a **beacon** that has guided St. Mary's for the past 17 years with a vision and leadership that was strong, steady, collaborative and entrepreneurial, taking the center from a sanctuary to a vibrant hub of learning, growing, and sustainable life transformation.
- And yet—even with all these strong attributes, **she exhibits a grace:** an unwavering faith in people's strength and future potential, a quiet yet definitive confidence of self, and a deep well of love and caring for all.

It is my great pleasure to introduce our honoree, Judy Beckler!