

Frank Prendergast (1933 - )

Frank Prendergast had the benefit of an all-Irish language education, firstly at An Mhodscoil, Limerick, and at the Christian Brothers schools in Sexton Street in that city until he left school at Intermediate Certificate level to serve his apprenticeship to the family trade - baking.

He came from a strong trade-union background on both his parents' side and soon became involved in industrial relations issues, being elected, although only still an apprentice, as local Branch Secretary of the Irish Bakers', Confectioners' and Allied Workers' Union. He was later to be elected General President of the Union (1967 - 1970). He was deeply involved in local trade union affairs through his activity with the historic Limerick Trades' Council and became President of that Body in 1973.

He left his trade in 1973 to take up the key full-time position of Branch Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union at Shannon Airport. Later on he was appointed District Secretary for Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary and also for the Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union when it replaced the reformed I.T.G.W.U.

He continued his education obtaining a Diploma in Economic and Social Studies at University College Cork and an M.A. Degree in Industrial Relations at Keele University for his thesis (unpublished) on the Attitudes of Multinational Companies in the Ireland Mid-West Region to Trade-Unions.

Although an active sportsman in his younger days, his abiding interests are in Irish language and culture and labour and social history. He has written and spoken extensively on these topics and wrote a weekly column for the Irish language newspaper Anois and also for the Limerick Leader. He has published several books in English and in Irish.

He was elected on behalf of the Labour Party to Limerick Corporation in 1974 and served as a Councillor, Alderman and Mayor of Limerick (1977-1978 and 1984-1985) until he retired undefeated over several elections in 1999.

He represented Limerick East Constituency in Dáil Éirean from 1982 until 1987 and was elected Chairman of the General Council of County Councils in 1996-1997.

He was elected Chairman of the Mid-West Regional Authority in 1995-1996 and Chairman of the Assembly of Regional Authorities for the same period which enabled him to contribute regularly to debates at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels 1994-1998.

His lifelong interest in education saw him appointed to the Governing Body of N.I.H.E. (1974-1979), later the University of Limerick, and he has served for many years on Schools Management Boards in the Mid-West Region of Ireland. A member of Limerick City Vocational Education Committee for twenty five years, he is presently Cathaoirleach of the all-Irish speaking Gaelcoláiste Luimnigh.

He was a member of Cómhairle Thelefish na Gaeilge (Irish Language Television Council) 1994-2000, and of the Governing Body, School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, Dublin, 1996-2000. He is a member of An Coimisiún Logainmneacha (Irish Placenames Commission) since 1997.

PRENDERGAST, Francis Joseph; Retired.

b: 13.07.1983; Parents: Samuel Prendergast and Margaret (nee Murphy).

m: 1958, Mary Sydenham: three s (one s dec'd), three d (one d dec'd).

Educ: Christian Brothers School. Limerick; University College Cork, Dip (Soc and Economic Science); Keele University England, MA in Industrial Relations.

Publications: History of St Michael's Parish, Limerick, 2000; Limerick's Glory: From Viking Settlement to the New Millenium (coauthor), 2002; Articles in Remembering Limerick - Historical Essays, 1997, North Munster Antiquarian Journal, Old Limerick Journal, AMDG Publications, Ireland; weekly column in Irish for the Anois and Limerick Leader newspapers; articles in Made in Limerick - Historical Essays, 2003; Dála an Scéil: a miscellany of Irish language newspaper articles, 2004.

Clubs and Societies: Garryowen Football Club; Voices of Limerick Choir; Thomond Archaeological Society; Limerick Thomond Probus Club.

Recreations: Irish language and culture, labour and social history, current affairs, music, reading and writing.

Career: Baker, Keane's Bakery, Limerick, 1950-73; General President Irish Bakers Confectioners' and Allied Workers' Union, 1967-70; Branch Secretary. ITGWU, Shannon, Clare County Branches, 1973-77; Regional Secretary, ITGWU, Limerick, Clare, 1977-82; Head Office Representative, ITGWU. Clare County, Limerick No 2 Branches, 1987-88; District Secretary, SIPTU, Limerick, 1990-93; Member, Board of Management, Crescent College Comprehensive SJ, 1973-91; Member, Governing Body, University of Limerick, 1974-79; President, Christian Brothers School PPU, Limerick, 1995-97; Elected Limerick City Council, 1974-99; Mayor of Limerick, 1977-78, 1984-85; Daíl Eireann (Irish Parliament) Labour Party TD (MP), Limerick East Constituency, 1982-87; Vice President, Bureau of Consultative Council for Regional and Local Authorities Europe, 1990-94; Committee of Regions European Union, alternate member, 1994-98; Chairman of Assembly of Regional Authorities, Ireland, 1995-96; Chairman, General Council of County Councils, Ireland, 1996-97; Chairman, Mid West Regional Authority, Ireland, 1995-96; Member, An Grúpa Stiúrtha (Irish Language Steering Group), Dept of Local Government and Environment, Ireland, 1984-99; Member, Cómhairle Theilifís na Gaeilge (Irish Language Television Council), 1994-2000; Member, Governing Body, School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, Dublin, 1996-2000; Member, An Coimisiún Logainmneacha (Irish Place names Commission), 1997-date; Member, Executive Trust, Hunt Museum, Limerick, 2000-date; Member, Irish Parliament Trust, 1985-date; Chairman, Board of Management Ard-Scoil Rís, Christian Brothers Schools, Limerick, 2003-2007; Cathaoirleach (Chair), Bord Bainistíochta, Coláiste Uí Chómhraidhe, Carraig a Chomhaltaigh, Contae An Chláir; Cathaoirleach Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh.

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