

Ambassador James F. Creagan

Ambassador Creagan is the Director of the Center for International Studies, Ambassador in Residence, and the current holder of the Amy Freeman Lee Chair of Humanities at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. James F. Creagan was a career diplomat for over thirty years and both a university professor and president. In the summer of 2009, Ambassador Creagan served as the United States Chargé d'Affaires to Bolivia and Chief of Mission at the American Embassy, La Paz, where he commanded a mission of over 500 people. In November 2009, he acted as an International Observer for the controversial presidential elections in Honduras.

Upon retirement from the United States Foreign Service in 1999, Ambassador Creagan became president of John Cabot University in Rome, Italy. Under Ambassador Creagan's administration, John Cabot University more than doubled its enrollment. It achieved American accreditation in 2003. Ambassador Creagan retired in August 2005 and was appointed university President Emeritus. He accepted a position as Guest Scholar at the University of Notre Dame, where he lectured on diplomatic and foreign policy issues. In January 2006, Ambassador Creagan joined the University of the Incarnate Word as professor and Ambassador in Residence.

Mr. Creagan served his country under eight presidents beginning at the Agency for International Development under President Kennedy and was then appointed to the Foreign Service under President Lyndon B. Johnson. During a diplomatic career spanning three decades, he was Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Ambassador to Italy from 1993-1996 and Deputy Chief of Mission of the American Embassy to the Holy See in the late 1980s. Creagan was the U.S. Consul General in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the early 1990s and the Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia in the mid-1980s. Other assignments included U.S. Consul in Naples, Italy, and the Political Counselor of the American Embassy in Lisbon, as well as political/labor officer in U.S. Embassies in Lima, Mexico City, San Salvador, and Rome.

Mr. Creagan was named U.S. Ambassador to Honduras by President Clinton in 1996. Focusing on issues of development, economic growth and trade - and the strengthening of democracy, Ambassador Creagan turned all the efforts of his Embassy and U.S. government agencies to rescue, rehabilitation, and recovery following the devastating Hurricane Mitch of 1998.

Ambassador Creagan was awarded the highest honor of the Republic of Honduras for his efforts and those of the U.S. Government to save lives and rebuild the country. He was declared an honorary Honduran citizen. The Ambassador received as well the Boston Archdiocese Caritas Christi Award for

Humanitarian Service. The Holy See awarded him the title of Cavalier of the Order of St. Gregory for his special diplomatic service in U.S./Vatican relations. Italy's president conferred on him the Italian Order of Merit for strengthening U.S.-Italian relations. Ambassador Creagan has been the recipient of numerous governmental service awards, including the Department of State Superior Honor Award for Distinguished Service and the Deputy Chief of Mission Award for Top Management and Policy Execution.

Ambassador Creagan is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., and several professional organizations. He was honorary president of the American Chambers of Commerce in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Honduras and Vice President of Brazil's American Society. He serves on the Board of the San Antonio World Affairs Council, the Latin American Advisory Council of the University of Notre Dame, and the Association of International Practical Training (AIPT). He is a Trustee of Hiram College, Ohio.

Ambassador Creagan was born in Elyria, Ohio, and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He holds a Ph. D. from the University of Virginia and has been a professor of political science at Texas A&M and St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. Ambassador Creagan speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian and is listed in Who's Who in America and the World. He is married to Gwyn Jonsson Creagan and they have two sons, Kevin and Sean.