

**Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Ph.D., Papers,
1974-2005, n.d.**

Creator: Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Ph.D., (1943-2012)

Extent: 4.25 linear feet

Location:

Processor: Sarah A. Stephens, April 2008

Administration Information:

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: What literary and copyrights possessed by Dr. Isasi-Diaz in the collection were transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives on 27 March 2008.

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Provenance: Dr. Isasi-Diaz donated all materials to the Women and Leadership Archives on November 1, 2007, as original accession WLA2008.05.

Separations: None

See also: Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship at Union Theological Seminary.

Biographical Sketch:

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz was born and raised in La Habana, Cuba. The third of six sisters and two brothers, she received her primary and secondary school education at Merci Academy, a school run by nuns of the Order of St. Ursula. Brought up in a practicing Catholic home, from early on she had a concern for the poor and oppressed and a love of religious practices. At the same time, especially from her mother, she learned the importance of struggling (*la lucha*) for what one believes without ever giving up.

Ada Maria left Cuba in 1960 and became a political refugee. Living in the United States, she entered the convent (the Order of St. Ursula), and went to college to earn a B.A. in European History from the College of New Rochelle in New York. In January of 1967 she went to Lima, Peru as a missionary. She lived there for three years in an experience that marked her for life. In Peru, she interacted with the poor and learned the importance of justice. Ada Maria returned to the United States in December of 1969, teaching high school in Louisiana and Spain. When she again returned to the United States, she settled in Rochester, New York.

Ada Maria attended the first Women's Ordination Conference in Detroit, Michigan on Thanksgiving weekend 1975 and it was then that she was born a feminist. She realized that oppression was not only caused by poverty but also as a result of sexism. For seven years she worked indefatigably in the women's movement focusing on oppression in churches, religion, and theology. In 1983 she began to pursue a Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she also completed her Ph.D. with a concentration in Christian Ethics in 1990. In 1991 she began teaching at the Theological and Graduate Schools of Drew University where she founded a Hispanic Institute of Theology. There she was given the opportunity to speak to women throughout the world

and to continue to elaborate Mujerista Theology.

Ada Maria always longed to return to Cuba and during 1997-2004 she was able to return every year to participate in workshops, give lectures, teach at the Protestant seminary, work in a Catholic parish helping to prepare for baptisms and conducting Bible studies. After 2004, she was unable to return due to travel restrictions. At the age of 69, Ada Maria died on May 13, 2012 after a battle with cancer.

Scope and Content

The Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz collection contains published and unpublished materials that relate to her interests in feminist theology and social justice. Included are books, professional journals, articles, newspapers, pamphlets, booklets, and buletiens. There is only one series, as the collection is entirely subject files, and it is arranged alphabetically by subject and title.

Series 1: Subject Files, 1974-2005, n.d., Boxes 1-9

Contains materials relating to subjects that were of interest to Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz. These subjects relate mainly to feminism, and more specifically deal with feminist theology, liberation theology, and global issues of social justice and poverty. This collection also contains several Spanish language documents that are not translated.

Subjects:

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz

Abortion

Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

Feminism: General

Feminism: Leadership

Feminist Theology: General

Feminist Theology: Women – Church Conference

Feminist Theology: Women's Liberation

Feminist Theology: Women's Ordination

Feminist Theology: Women in Other Religions

Poverty/Economics

Racism

Social Justice: General

Theological Issues: General

Violence

Womenist Perspectives

World Theological and Feminist Issues

World Theological and Feminist Issues: Foreign Language (Spanish)

Abortion

1 1 Special Roe Anniversary Issue of Conscience 1997-1998

**Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity
with Women**

2 A Decade in Solidarity with the Bible 1998
3 Keeping Our Heads Above Water 1998
4 Living Letters 1997
5 Prayers & Poems - Songs & Stories 1988
6 Resource for Participation 1988

Feminism: General

7 Off the Wall 1983
8 Screenings: Movie Guide to the National Seminar 1991
9 Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 1991
10 We are the Ones We are Waiting For 1995
11 Women's Encampment for Future of Peace and Justice 1983
12 Women Spirit 1981-1982

Feminism: Leadership

13 Leadership for Change n.d.
14 Leadership: A Question of Power? 1986
15 Sonia Johnson: National Organization for Women 1982
16 The Bent Over Woman n.d.
17 Women's Training Activities Worldwide 1988

Feminist Theology: General

2 1 Focus: Women 1990
2 If Anyone Can NCAN: Twenty Years of Speaking Out 1989
3 How to Skills with a Feminist Perspective n.d.
4 Miriam, Mary, and Me: Women in the Bible 1993
5 New Woman/New Family/New God 1976
6 The Status and Roles of Women: Another Perspective n.d.
7 Theological Studies 1975
8 Toward a Full and Equal Sharing: Pastoral Letter 1985
9 USQR Inaugural Address 1981
10 The Whole Earth Papers: Women and World Order 1978
11 Women Appeal to the Pastors of the Church 1987
12 Women Church Change 1975
13 Women Church Speaks 1983

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14	Women in the Church and Society	1987
15	Women Moving Church	1982
16	Women's Voices and Visions of the Church	2005
17	Women's Ways of Being Church	2004

Feminist Theology: Women - Church Conference

18	Women - Church: Conference Packets	1987
19	Women - Church: Newspaper Articles	1985-1987

Feminist Theology: Women's Liberation

3	1	The Liberation of Women: Religious Sources	1995
	2	Folk Mass and Modern Liturgy	1975
	3	Following the Star	1981
	4	Women's Perspectives: Articulating the Liberating Power of the Gospel	1996

Feminist Theology: Women's Ordination

5	Are Catholics Ready?	1978
6	The Ordination of Women in the Roman Catholic Church	1978
7	Study Guide on Ordination of Women to the Priesthood	1976
8	Women's Ordination Conference	1978-1979, nd

Feminist Theology: Women in Other Religions

9	Lilith: Reclaiming Our Herstory	1980
10	The Jewish Woman	1973
11	The Saint Luke's Journal of Theology: Anglican Theologians on the Ordination of Women	1975
12	The Witness: Episcopal Women Priests 10 th Anniversary	1984

Poverty/Economics

13	Act Justly: Women's Poverty	1987-1992
14	The American Profile Poster	1986
15	Conference on Population and Development	1994
16	Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching	1986
17	Who is Poor in America? Feminization of Poverty	n.d.

Racism

18	Charter for Racial Justice Policies	1980
19	Creating a New Community	1986
20	Pastoral Letter on Contemporary Racism and the Role of	1991

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	the Church	
21	Racial Justice	n.d.
22	USQR: Martin Luther King, Jr.	1986

Social Justice: General

23	Biblical Basis on Justice	n.d.
24	Building United Judgement: A Handbook	1981
25	Campaign for Children	1991
26	The Challenge of Peace	1983
27	Facts	1989
28	Leaven	n.d.
29	Must We Choose Sides?	1979
30	Towards U.S. Ratification of Human Rights Covenants	1990-1991

Theological Issues: General

4	1	Doing Theology in the United States	1985
	2	The Eucharist in Ecumenical Dialogue	1976
	3	The Knowledge of God and the Knowledge of the World	1988
	4	The Institutional Church in the Future	1980
	5	Language about God in Liturgy and Scripture	1980
	6	Proxis of Liberation and Christian Faith	1974
	7	Religion and the Left	1984
	8	Resistance: Toward a First World Theology	1979
	9	Synod Wrap-up	1985
	10	Theology Digest	1977
	11	USQR	1988
	12	Vatican II: Twenty Years On	1985
	13	Young Catholics over Two Generations	1994

Violence Against Women

5	1	International Dialogue of Women Theologians on Violence Against Women (1 of 2)	n.d.
	2	International Dialogue of Women Theologians on Violence Against Women (2 of 2)	n.d.
	3	Jersey Battered Women's Service, Inc	n.d.
	4	Off Their Backs and On Our Own Two Feet	1983
	5	Spirituality for Life: Women Struggling Against Violence	1994
	6	Together with Courage	n.d.
	7	Violence Against Women in Zimbabwe	1997
	8	Why Live in Fear: Women Speak Out	1996
	9	Women Resisting Violence	1996

Womanist Perspectives

10	Breaking the Tyrannies of Silence	1997
11	Establishing Womanist Prerogatives	1995

World Theological and Feminist Issues

6	1	Africa (1 of 2)	1982-1985
	2	Africa (2 of 2)	1991-1995
	3	Asia (1 of 2)	1979-1987
	4	Asia (2 of 2)	1989-2005
	5	Europe	1993
	6	North America	1991
7	1	South/Latin America (1 of 3)	1974-1984
	2	South/Latin America (2 of 3)	1987-1988
	3	South/Latin America (3 of 3)	1988
	4	“Third World”	1985-1989

**World Theological and Feminist Issues:
Foreign Language (Spanish)**

8	1	Apuntes y aportes de la mujer Cristiana	1982
	2	Aventura y sporrans	1983
	3	Bajo un techo de libertad	1986
	4	Boletin documental sobre las mujeres	n.d.
	5	Caminando	1989
	6	La Comunidad Cristiana de base	1976
	7	Comunidad de muheres y hombres en la iglesia	1981
	8	La Condicion de la mujer en Mexico	1977-1979
	9	Conferencia Cristiana por la paz de latinoamerica y el Caribe	1983
	10	Cuadernos del instituto bartolome de las casas-rimac	1987
	11	Documentos del ocote encendido	1999
	12	Documento de Asia	1986
	13	La Esperanza	1995
	14	Es Preciso volar	1984
	15	Feminismo y movimiento popular en america latina	1986
9	1	Hacia una fe liberadora	2001
	2	Informe Latinoamericano para la degunda asamblea general de la asociacion ecumenical de teologos del tercer mundo	1986
	3	Kairos	1992

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4	Memoires engagees	1997
5	El Movimiento de leader	1985
6	Mujers en accion	1986
7	Mujer latinoamericana	n.d.
8	La mujer, taller de la vida	1983
9	Nuestra memoria, nuestro futuro	1988
10	Primer Encuentro - Taller de Profesoras de Teologia	1994
11	Promocion cultural creatividad y cambio	1985
12	Promocion cultural creatividad y cambio	1988
13	Red de salud de las mujeres latinoamericanas y del caribe	1986
14	La Situacion de las mujeres en la iglesia catolica	1980
15	Theologica xaveriana	1980