

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz Papers 1974-2005, undated

Creator: Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz (1943-2012)

Extent: 3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

Language: English, Spanish

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. WLArchives@luc.edu

Administration Information:

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date of item, box #, folder #, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

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

Processor: Sarah A. Stephens, April 2008

Processing Information: Some materials were rehoused so box numbers were updated October 2024. Finding aid updated April 2025.

Separations: none

See also: Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University.

Biographical History

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. Raised in a practicing Catholic home, from early on she had a concern for the poor and oppressed and a love of religious practices. Ada Maria especially learned from her mother 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 BA in European History from the College of New Rochelle in New York. In January of 1967 she went to Lima, Peru as a missionary. The three years of living there was an experience that had a profound effect on the rest of her 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. Ada Maria then taught high school in Spain, and later returned to the United States and settled in Rochester, NY

Ada Maria attended the first Women's Ordination Conference in Detroit, Michigan on Thanksgiving weekend 1975 and it was then that she became involved in the feminist movement. She realized that oppression was not only caused by poverty but also as a result of sexism. For seven years she participated 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 PhD 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. From 1997-2004 she was able to return annually 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 consists of 4.25 linear feet (9 boxes) and 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 bulletins. 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, undated, Boxes 1-9

Contains materials relating to subjects that were of interest to Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz. Materials are organized into subseries by subject. 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 into English.

Subseries 1.01: Abortion

Subseries 1.02: Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

Subseries 1.03: Feminism: General

Subseries 1.04: Abortion

Subseries 1.05: Feminist Theology: General

Subseries 1.06: Feminist Theology: Women - Church Conference

Subseries 1.07: Feminist Theology: Women's Liberation

Subseries 1.08: Feminist Theology: Women's Ordination

Subseries 1.09: Feminist Theology: Women in Other Religions

Subseries 1.10: Poverty/Economics

Subseries 1.11: Racism

Subseries 1.12: Social Justice: General

Subseries 1.13: Theological Issues: General

Subseries 1.14: Violence Against Women

Subseries 1.15: Womanist Perspectives

Subseries 1.16: World Theological and Feminist Issues

Subseries 1.17: World Theological and Feminist Issues: Foreign Language (Spanish)

Subjects:

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, PhD (1943-2012)
 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)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz Papers</i> <i>1974-2005, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Subject Files, 1974-2005, undated	
		Subseries 1.01: Abortion	
1	1	Special Roe Anniversary Issue of Conscience	1997-1998
		Subseries 1.02: Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women	
1	2	A Decade in Solidarity with the Bible	1998
1	3	Keeping Our Heads Above Water	1998
1	4	Living Letters	1997
1	5	Prayers & Poems - Songs & Stories	1988
1	6	Resource for Participation	1988
		Subseries 1.03: Feminism: General	
1	7	Off the Wall	1983
1	8	Screenings: Movie Guide to the National Seminar	1991
1	9	Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society	1991
1	10	We are the Ones We are Waiting For	1995
1	11	Women’s Encampment for Future of Peace and Justice	1983
1	12	Women Spirit	1981-1982

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Subseries 1.04: Feminism: Leadership			
1	13	Leadership for Change	undated
1	14	Leadership: A Question of Power?	1986
1	15	Sonia Johnson: National Organization for Women	1982
1	16	The Bent Over Woman	undated
1	17	Women's Training Activities Worldwide	1988
Subseries 1.05: Feminist Theology: General			
2	1	Focus: Women	1990
2	2	If Anyone Can NCAN: Twenty Years of Speaking Out	1989
2	3	How to Skills with a Feminist Perspective	undated
2	4	Miriam, Mary, and Me: Women in the Bible	1993
2	5	New Woman/New Family/New God	1976
2	6	The Status and Roles of Women: Another Perspective	undated
2	7	Theological Studies	1975
2	8	Toward a Full and Equal Sharing: Pastoral Letter	1985
2	9	USQR (Union Seminary Quarterly Review) Inaugural Address	1981
2	10	The Whole Earth Papers: Women and World Order	1978
2	11	Women Appeal to the Pastors of the Church	1987
2	12	Women Church Change	1975
2	13	Women Church Speaks	1983
2	14	Women in the Church and Society	1987
2	15	Women Moving Church	1982
2	16	Women's Voices and Visions of the Church	2005
2	17	Women's Ways of Being Church	2004
Subseries 1.06: Feminist Theology: Women - Church Conference			
2	18	Women - Church: Conference Packets	1987
2	19	Women - Church: Newspaper Articles	1985-1987
Subseries 1.07: Feminist Theology: Women's Liberation			
3	1	The Liberation of Women: Religious Sources	1995
3	2	Folk Mass and Modern Liturgy	1975
3	3	Following the Star	1981
3	4	Women's Perspectives: Articulating the Liberating Power of the Gospel	1996
Subseries 1.08: Feminist Theology: Women's Ordination			
3	5	Are Catholics Ready?	1978
3	6	The Ordination of Women in the Roman Catholic Church	1978
3	7	Study Guide on Ordination of Women to the Priesthood	1976
3	8	Women's Ordination Conference	1978-1979, undated

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

Subseries 1.09: Feminist Theology: Women in Other Religions			
3	9	Lilith: Reclaiming Our Herstory	1980
3	10	The Jewish Woman	1973
3	11	The Saint Luke's Journal of Theology: Anglican Theologians on the Ordination of Women	1975
3	12	The Witness: Episcopal Women Priests 10 th Anniversary	1984
Subseries 1.10: Poverty/Economics			
3	13	Act Justly: Women's Poverty	1987-1992
3	14	The American Profile Poster	1986
3	15	Conference on Population and Development	1994
3	16	Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching	1986
3	17	Who is Poor in America? Feminization of Poverty	undated
Subseries 1.11: Racism			
3	18	Charter for Racial Justice Policies	1980
3	19	Creating a New Community	1986
3	20	Pastoral Letter on Contemporary Racism and the Role of the Church	1991
3	21	Racial Justice	undated
3	22	USQR (Union Seminary Quarterly Review): Martin Luther King, Jr.	1986
Subseries 1.12: Social Justice: General			
4	1	Biblical Basis on Justice	undated
4	2	Building United Judgement: A Handbook	1981
4	3	Campaign for Children	1991
4	4	The Challenge of Peace	1983
4	5	Facts	1989
4	6	Leaven	undated
4	7	Must We Choose Sides?	1979
4	8	Towards U.S. Ratification of Human Rights Covenants	1990-1991
Subseries 1.13: Theological Issues: General			
4	9	Doing Theology in the United States	1985
4	10	The Eucharist in Ecumenical Dialogue	1976
4	11	The Knowledge of God and the Knowledge of the World	1988
4	12	The Institutional Church in the Future	1980
4	13	Language about God in Liturgy and Scripture	1980
4	14	Proxis of Liberation and Christian Faith	1974
4	15	Religion and the Left	1984
4	16	Resistance: Toward a First World Theology	1979
4	17	Synod Wrap-up	1985
4	18	Theology Digest	1977
4	19	USQR (Union Seminary Quarterly Review)	1988

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

4	20	Vatican II: Twenty Years On	1985
4	21	Young Catholics over Two Generations	1994
Subseries 1.14: Violence Against Women			
5	1	International Dialogue of Women Theologians on Violence Against Women (1 of 2)	undated
5	2	International Dialogue of Women Theologians on Violence Against Women (2 of 2)	undated
5	3	Jersey Battered Women's Service, Inc	undated
5	4	Off Their Backs and On Our Own Two Feet	1983
5	5	Spirituality for Life: Women Struggling Against Violence	1994
5	6	Together with Courage	undated
5	7	Violence Against Women in Zimbabwe	1997
5	8	Why Live in Fear: Women Speak Out	1996
5	9	Women Resisting Violence	1996
Subseries 1.15: Womanist Perspectives			
5	10	Breaking the Tyrannies of Silence	1997
5	11	Establishing Womanist Prerogatives	1995
Subseries 1.16: World Theological and Feminist Issues			
6	1	Africa (1 of 2)	1982-1985
6	2	Africa (2 of 2)	1991-1995
6	3	Asia (1 of 2)	1979-1987
6	4	Asia (2 of 2)	1989-2005
6	5	Europe	1993
6	6	North America	1991
7	1	South/Latin America (1 of 3)	1974-1984
7	2	South/Latin America (2 of 3)	1987-1988
7	3	South/Latin America (3 of 3)	1988
7	4	"Third World"	1985-1989
Subseries 1.17: World Theological and Feminist Issues: Foreign Language (Spanish)			
7	5	Apuntes y aportes de la mujer Cristiana	1982
7	6	Aventura y sporrans	1983
7	7	Bajo un techo de libertad	1986
7	8	Boletin documental sobre las mujeres	undated
7	9	Caminando	1989
8	1	La Comunidad Cristiana de base	1976
8	2	Comunidad de muheres y hombres en la iglesia	1981
8	3	La Condicion de la mujer en Mexico	1977-1979
8	4	Conferencia Cristiana por la paz de latinoamerica y el Caribe	1983

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

8	5	Cuadernos del instituto bartolome de las casas-rimac	1987
8	6	Documentos del ocote encendido	1999
8	7	Documento de Asia	1986
8	8	La Esperanza	1995
8	9	Es Preciso volar	1984
8	10	Feminismo y movimiento popular en america latina	1986
8	11	Hacia una fe liberadora	2001
8	12	Informe Latinoamericano para la segunda asamblea general de la asociacion ecumenical de teologos del tercer mundo	1986
8	13	Kairos	1992
8	14	Memoires engagees	1997
9	1	El Movimiento de leader	1985
9	2	Mujers en accion	1986
9	3	Mujer latinoamericana	undated
9	4	La mujer, taller de la vida	1983
9	5	Nuestra memoria, nuestro futuro	1988
9	6	Primer Encuentro - Taller de Profesoras de Teologia	1994
9	7	Promocion cultural creatividad y cambio	1985
9	8	Promocion cultural creatividad y cambio	1988
9	9	Red de salud de las mujeres latinoamericanas y del caribe	1986
9	10	La Situacion de las mujeres en la iglesia catolica	1980
9	11	Theologica xaveriana	1980