

Sister Austin Doherty

A member of the School

Sisters of St. Francis and a faculty member at Alverno College, Doherty began making presentations throughout Wisconsin on women's issues in 1960. In 1966, she attended NOW's organizing conference and was elected to its first board. In 1967 Doherty, with Catherine Conroy and others, founded a Milwaukee chapter of NOW. Doherty participated in the 50th anniversary of the Women's Bureau of the Dept. of Labor in Washington, D.C. (1970). As co-director of Alverno's Research Center on Women, Doherty organized many feminist conferences, seminars and projects, including Women in Public Life in Wisconsin (1971), Midwest Conference on Women's Studies (1971), Oral and Visual History Project, a series of videotapes and slide/film interviews with WI suffragists (1971 –1974), The Contribution of Education to Women's Roles, with Claire and Laura Nader (1972), and Social Myths and Sex Roles, with Elizabeth Janeway (1972). In June 1971, Doherty helped organize and served as co-chair of the first conference of women theologians, which marked a historic conceptual leap, incorporating women's experience into the theological process. Active in Milwaukee NOW, Doherty worked to end the sex-segregated employment ads at the Milwaukee Journal (1973), and for WI ratification of the ERA. She also hosted the 1974 conference for the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, Homemaking and the Family: Changing Values and Concerns, held at Alverno College; was an individual delegate to the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston, and continued to work in WI for women's rights through 1980. In 1992, Doherty was interviewed for several audio and videotapes for the Women's Oral History Project: "Bridges that Carry Us Over: Midwestern Leaders of the Modern Women's Movement." Doherty holds a B.A. from Alverno College, an M.A. from Marquette University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Loyola University. She is director of the Alverno College Institute. Archives: Papers will go to the Alverno College archives and the archives of the School Sisters of St. Francis International Headquarters, St. Joseph Convent, Milwaukee, WI. (ABS).