

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ORANGE HONORS LEGACY AND CONTINUED MISSION OF CESAR CHAVEZ IN MAÑANITAS CELEBRATION

ORANGE, Calif., (March 30, 2006) - More than 800 people are expected to attend a Mass of Mañanitas at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1100 South Center Street, Santa Ana honoring the birthday and legacy of Cesar Chavez, Friday, March 31 at 5:00 a.m. The Most Rev. Jaime Soto, auxiliary bishop of orange will lead the tribute to Cesar Chavez, a Mexican-American labor activist and leader of the United Farm Workers Union. His tireless leadership focused national attention on the harsh working conditions, of laborers.

“Cesar Chavez’s legacy of non-violent protest and advocacy for labor and civil rights serves as an inspiration in the face of turbulent times within our community. We take this opportunity before Chavez’s birthday to call in one voice for fair and humane immigration reform that respects basic human rights and preserves families,” said Bishop Soto.

Dedicated to non-violence, Chavez built the United Farm Workers Union and convinced millions of Americans to support their struggle for dignity.

Cesar Chavez is celebrated in California where the state legislature in 2000 approved a bill to create a paid state holiday in his honor. The holiday is celebrated on March 31, Chavez's birthday. Texas, Arizona and Colorado also celebrate this anniversary. The holiday is the first in the history of the United States awarded to a Mexican-American labor leader.

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