



## **Cesar Chavez. *Consistent.***

César Estrada Chávez was among the most influential and visible leaders of the labor movement in the United States.

Mr. Chavez was a Mexican-American farmworker and prominent activist for both labor unions and civil rights. With Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers).

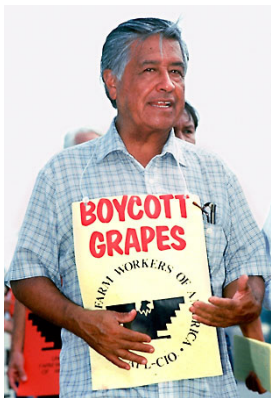
Born in 1927 in Arizona, Chavez suffered with his family during the Great Depression, moving to California as migrant farm workers after they lost their farm. Chavez and his family picked peas and lettuce in the winter, cherries and beans in the spring, corn and grapes in the summer, and cotton in the fall. In his mid-20's Chavez became an organizer for worker rights and encouraged Mexican-Americans to register to vote.

In 1965, Filipino-American farm workers initiated the Delano grape strike for higher wages, and Cesar Chavez eagerly supported them. Six months later, Chavez and the NFWA led California grape pickers on the historic farmworkers march from Delano to the California capitol in Sacramento. The UFW encouraged all Americans to boycott table

grapes as a show of support. The strike lasted five years and attracted national attention.

Cesar Chavez embraced nonviolence early in his career as an activist. Deeply grounded in his Catholic faith, Cesar was unabashed in his regard for all living things (he was a strict vegetarian) and publicly described nonviolence as an innately spiritual practice.

Chavez was profoundly inspired by Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. Like them, he viewed nonviolence as a highly-effective strategy for change. "Violence just hurts those who are already hurt...instead of exposing the brutality of the oppressor, it justifies it. We can turn the world if we can do it non-violently."



Chavez was known for his many fasts in support of his humanitarian causes. In early 1968, he fasted for 25 days. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and more than 8,000 farm workers joined him when he broke his fast at a Catholic mass. Kennedy called him "one of the heroic figures of our time."

This humble activist died on April 23, 1993, shortly after a 36-day fast in support of his beloved farm workers. César Estrada Chávez was *consistent* to the very end.

Will you join him in rejecting violence?

*We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. We believe that these issues are linked under a 'consistent ethic of life'. We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.*



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