

# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

DYNAMICS OF A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY  
OF TWO CHARISMATIC GROUPS IN METRO MANILA

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## ABSTRACT

An in-depth study on the dynamics occurring within two Charismatic groups in the Philippines was conducted. Specifically, the objectives are: 1) to describe the activities and symbolic acts; 2) to find out the motivations of individuals to join the movement; 3) to find out the modes of recruitment; 4) to discover the attitude changes of members; and 5) to find out the factors contributing to and sustaining the attitudinal and behavioral changes of the members.

Direct Participation and Informal Interviews with the aid of unstructured guides were utilized in this descriptive research. Two Charismatic groups namely, Corpus Christi Community and Christian Renewal Center are studied and twenty members are interviewed.

In the findings, a detailed discussion of the activities, symbolic acts and beliefs revealed the movement's goal of affecting and changing the world by the demonstration of an alternate lifestyle of obedience to God's ways.

Inherent factors such as curiosity are the main reasons for joining the movement. A promotion group exists in that members are recruited mainly through social network ties and the mass media. Attitudes, Cognitions and Behaviors are considered to be consistently related. Attitudes and behaviors change in a congruent or incongruent direction. Modifiability of an attitude depends upon certain pre-existing attitudes and upon certain attributing factors of the personality. Commitment is the main factor that sustains the member's attitudinal and behavioral changes. Being a voluntary group, group support is important for members to maintain participation in the movement.

The fact that the movement seeks, for its goal, to affect and ultimately change the prevailing human and societal conditions by a practical demonstration of an alternate lifestyle of obedience to God's ways, indicates the valid mission it has to fulfill. Thus, the Charismatic Movement has valid reasons to continue to exist.

