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THE EL SHADDAI MOVEMENT:

ITS HISTORY, STRUCTURE AND PRACTICES AND TEACHINGS

A THESIS

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## THESIS ABSTRACT

### THE EL SHADDAI MOVEMENT:

#### ITS HISTORY, STRUCTURE, PRACTICES AND TEACHINGS

This study is an exploratory study of the Charismatic renewal movement in Metro Manila, specifically "El Shaddai". The main purpose of this study is to record and analyze the practices, structures and teachings of El Shaddai.

Specifically, the research aims to find out:

- 1) El Shaddai's history, origin and growth.
- 2) To identify their practices in religious worship and fellowship.
- 3) To investigate the organization's self-image in relation to the Catholic church, with regard to the hierarchy and in matter of finances.

This study was conducted from September to May 1994 in Metro Manila.

The respondents of the informal interviews were the members and the leaders of the group.

The research method used was participant-observation with informal interview of leaders and some members. It also made use of literature, through El



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Shaddai's publication, "Liwanang" and the tapes recorded by their radio and television network.

The more important findings are:

1. The expansion of the movement was and is tremendously due to mass media like radio, television and publication.
2. The practices are similar to those of other charismatic groups. The difference lies in the amount of time given to each part. The time for singing is longer in El Shaddai. The giving of tithes is emphasized most of the time. The use of the handkerchief with the image of Jesus and Mary and Psalm 91 written on it is widespread.
3. There is also a great emphasis on miracles to answer the material needs of the people. At the end of every prayer, wallets and passports are raised to be filled by Yahweh El Shaddai.
4. The interpretation of the Bible by Velarde is fundamentalist. He evades talking about Mary and the Saints so as not to offend the Protestants.

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