

Simple life important to group

By KAREN CUBIE
Gazette Staff Writer

The seven members of the Taunton chapter of the Christian Life Community take their faith in God seriously.

For them, christianity is a way of life rather than just a religious practice.

It means they must live in a way that is sensitive to the needs of others, protesting the situation in El Salvador, working with local mentally retarded adults, and paying attention to news from the Philippines.

It also means knowing when time must be set aside to soul-search, to pray, and to study in order to have something to give during the busy times.

"This year we will look at the whole issue of a simple lifestyle," explained Daniel LeBrun, a member of the Taunton chapter, and a former past-president of the worldwide Catholic organization's American branch. "We want to live simply so others may simply live."

"We want to see what (in our lifestyle) is wasteful or insensitive to the needs of others, both locally and globally," he continued. "It's an attempt to look at what we have and what we do in tune with our service perspective."

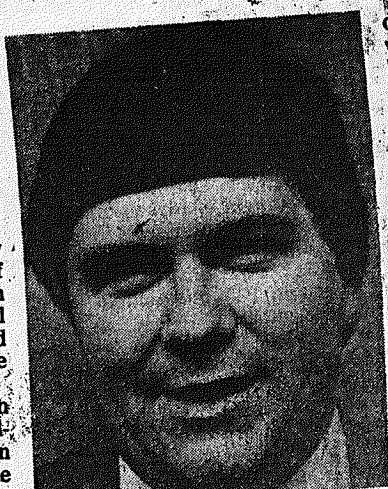
The group's quiet year of spiritual study was almost torn away from them when LeBrun received a letter from the Philippine CLC group pleading for help against Ferdinand Marcos.

"We write to you to request for prayer and support," the letter read. "Help us to proclaim the truth. Keep alive the torch of freedom, justice and peace by influencing our government to reject the dictatorial regime of Mr. Marcos and recognize the government of Cory Aquino which soon we would like to proclaim."

The letter gave a first-hand description of the election time turmoil.

"The world watched us and asked: 'Is it possible to end a dictatorial regime through the ballot? Is it possible for a people to liberate themselves from the goons, guns and gold of Mr. Marcos?'"

"That day, we, the Filipino people, proved that these were possible," the letter continued. "The price we had to pay for truth, freedom, and justice was high. Ricardo Ponce, a 17-year-old Namfrel volunteer was killed while protecting the ballot box. Many were mauled, harassed, intimidated, threatened. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Euelio Javier another opposition



DANIEL LeBRUN
Struggle over

"But the truth has triumphed over evil," the letter continued. "Cory Aquino won inspite of all the fraud and terrorism according to the citizens' count. The COM-ELEC (Commission on Elections) however reports otherwise. And Mr. Marcos holds on tenaciously to power."

"We know that the Batasan (our Parliament) and our electoral tribunal will surely silence the voice of the people by proclaiming Mr. Marcos as president."

The Philippine group, however, had found hope in the Bible, and in the words of a late Filipino Jesuit priest.

"The words of our beloved... the late Fr. Horacio de la Costa, SJ, inspire us too," the letter said. "... this pauper among the nations of the earth hides two jewels in her rags' our Faith and our music. These are the bonds that bind us together; these are the soul that make us one. And as long as there remains in these islands, one mother to sing Nena's lullaby, one boat to put out to sea with the immemorial rowing song, one priest to stand at the altar and offer God to God, this nation may be conquered, trampled upon, enslaved, but it cannot perish. Like the sun that dies every evening, it will rise again from the dead."

"Pray for our little nation and our people struggling to make the Kingdom of God alive in this part of the world," the letter ended. "We ask you to fast and pray with us so that God may touch the heart of our Pharaoh and let our people go."

On Feb. 25, exactly two weeks after the letter was written and before LeBrun had a chance to respond, the Filipino pharaoh freed his people, and Marcos flew

on Feb. 11, and the Taunton CLC will not become actively involved, but they have not forgotten their Filipino brothers."

"The letter came between the election and when Marcos left," LeBrun said. "The request was for us to prod our government to push Marcos out."

"The major struggle is over now," he continued. "I don't think our local group will become involved, but as past-president of the national organization, I may see the letter gets printed in our newsletter as a sense of solidarity with the Philippines."

The Taunton CLC will keep the

Philippines in their prayers. "Like everyone else, we hope the government will work to find a way to return the Marcos money to the Philippines," he added.


For now, the seven member group will continue studying a simple lifestyle.

"We're assuming an outgrowth (of this study), we end up deciding what it is should do next," LeBrun said.

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