

St. Paul's Retreat House
Lamlongei, Mantripukhri
Imphal – 795002
Mobile: 8837270018
Email: linusfrneli@gmail.com

Imphal, 16th August 2022

To
Most Rev. John Moolachira, DD
Archbishop of Guwahati &
The President of the
Regional Bishops' Council, North East India

Subject:

The General Report Concerning the NECARF

Your Grace,

As I have been appointed by you to be the Ecclesiastical Adviser of the **North East Catholic Research Forum** (NECARF), I feel it is my duty to keep you informed of the spirit and activities of the said Association and, therefore, I have the honour to state the following.

The **North East Catholic Research Forum** (NECARF) is an association, principally consisting of lay Catholic educated professionals hailing from the Northeast region of India. It is a non-profit making organization to create a forum of excellence in pursuit of knowledge and knowledge dissemination, which continually responds to the changing social realities through publications and open discourses. The Association got its approval from the Regional Bishops' Council during the Biennial meeting of the Bishops' Council at Guwahati in October 2020.

Current Office Bears

Office	Name
Convener	James Pochury: Mob: 9654352135 (Senior Campaigner, Asia, in a climate NGO)
Co-Convener	Dr. Michael Lunminthang Haokip
General Secretary	Renzo Biswa
Treasurer	David Boyes
Executive Members	Gaithorong Simon; Ngachonmi Jonah
Chief Editor	NECARF Review: John S. Shilshi, IPS (retd.): Mobile: 9650425522. He hails from Manipur (currently residing in Goa). He also served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for 16 years, and also in the National

	Security Council Secretariat, which is part of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), for two years. He is an Analyst on Internal Security, presently working in a freelance capacity
Ecclesiastical Adviser	Rev. Fr. Linus Neli, DCL. Imphal Archdiocese (Mobile: 8837270018 / 9436033731)

Although the NECARF is intended to be the Forum of Lay Catholic Scholars, its Bylaws has a proviso to include the Priests and Religious of the Region, who have degrees in Ecclesiastical and Secular Universities, to participate in its aims and objectives.

The aims and objectives of the NECARF are:

- To create a platform to encourage scholarly works among Catholics scholars in their inquiry into secular and spiritual related topics which may have direct or indirect implications on the Church and its growth, particularly in the region.
- To take up research activities on social, economic and culture topics, with special emphasis on lives of people in Northeast region.
- To engage in Publication of Newsletter/Magazine/Journal for public reading, and to encourage young and budding writers to express opinion through writing.
- To Serve as a Think Tank for the Catholic Church in the region, sharing of knowledge and providing guidance to young Catholic researchers of the region,
- To conduct Workshops, Seminars and Symposiums on contemporary issues to encourage free and fair expression of views/opinions
- To respond to request for suggestions from the Church, whenever sought for, on issues that may require opinion from Lay people.

Some Observations

The NECARF is about to complete two years of its existence, since its inauguration on 15th September 2020. Its website: www.necarf.org is visited by more than 60000 website visitors. The first issue of NECARF saw the light on 16th September 2020. The forum uses “**NECatholic Research Forum**” as its *WhatsApp* Common platform. About 127 prominent catholic scholars from all eight Northeast states exchange ideas, opinions and mutual appreciation about their church and professional lives.

I give below a gist of my observation and appreciation on the above mentioned Association:

- At the initial stage itself, it is seen that this forum has brought about a close bond among the intellectual Catholic members of the NE Region in getting to know each other and by mutual sharing of useful information about the scenario and development of their respective churches and dioceses.

- The spirit of the Association, in sharing views and analysis of subject matters, is very cordial, fraternal, balanced, scholarly and “*pro-Ecclesia*”. It invites great readership of the website and promotes budding writers to a great extent.
- The writings on the website are participated actively by scholarly members as well as some renowned Catholic leaders and scholars in the country. The nature and contents of the articles are original and includes also on indigenous knowledge on culture, customary practices, and Church growth in the context of Northeast situation. It is heart-warming and inspiring to read through some articles and opinions and, at times, worth deeper reflection and analytical studies.
- As of now, the Association employs the term “Catholic” in keeping with its aspirations and activities worthy of Ecclesiastical nature and application.
- The Association is looking forward to its first small-scale gathering on 19th-20th August 2022, at the Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati. It will be a unique event of its genre.

In conclusion, I wish to note that the Association comprises a pool of quality minds and manpower who are good practicing Catholics and who are sincerely and earnestly interested in the integral growth and development of the Church. They are willing to contribute their mite to the building up of the Church and to collaborate with the hierarchy in whatever way they can, especially in their professional capacities.

I am hopeful that this Association will be of a vital organ to the Ecclesiastical body not only in the Northeast but a link to the Church at the national level and beyond in due time. I wish the Association great success with the blessings of God and due recognition and encouragement of the hierarchy.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Linus Neli, DCL
Ecclesiastical Adviser (NECARF)