

New Delhi,  
August 25, 2020

To:

*His Excellency,*  
The Most Reverend **John Moolachira**,  
Archbishop of Guwahati,  
President, North East Bishops' Council,  
Archbishop's House, Ambari,  
Guwahati, Assam.

**Sub: Prayer for permission to use the word 'Catholic' as in North East 'Catholic' Research Forum (NECARF)**

*Your Excellency,*

My colleagues and I would like to extend our warm greetings to you and other members of the NEBC in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In my capacity as Convener of the proposed "**North East Catholic Research Forum**" (NECARF), I would like to submit this petition for permission to allow us to use the term "Catholic" as part of the organizational nomenclature. For the kind information of the Council, brief facts about the purpose and intention of forming such an organization are enumerated below:

1. The need was felt to create a platform that contributes to moulding individual talent among Catholics for expressing views and opinions on things that one encounters or is of interest and useful to society. This led to the formation of an organization to be known as "**North East Catholic Research Forum**" which took root following several exchange of ideas amongst Catholic intellectuals, professionals, lawyers, and senior level government officers (both serving and retired) from the North East states, but residing in different parts of India. This exclusive group of learned and experience people was of the unanimous opinion that though the Catholic Church in the region have rendered valuable services in social, education and health sectors; to name a few, our visibility was confined to immediate beneficiaries, and not to the larger general public in the region as well as the rest of India. Given the fast changing socio-politico scenario in the country, it was therefore felt that the time was ripe for enlightened and experience Catholics of the region to do their bit in positively projecting the contributions of the Catholic Church and Institutions through mature, balanced, and objective writings without giving political overtones.
2. It was also felt that despite availing the best education opportunities in Catholic institutions, Catholic youths generally are recluse and laidback in so far as expressing themselves is concerned. The Forum aims to unlock this old habit and nudge the youth into expressing themselves by making use of the Newsletters/Magazines/Journals/Websites, etc., providing them a secular platform so that they might perhaps feel confident to express.
3. The Forum has no intention of interfering or intruding into any decision-making process of any Church bodies, including Diocesan level functioning. Its sole aim is to function as an

independent think tank – a knowledge bank where ideas and opinions produced through research or experienced by knowledgeable individuals will be made available for consumption either by individuals or entities. The freedom to use or ignore them shall be at the sole discretion of users.

4. Apart from the quality products from seniors and articles by young and budding Catholic writers, the Forum envisages to carry brief updates in the form of supplementing what are carried by different Diocesan Newsletters. We also intend to provide quick links to websites of all North East Dioceses/Archdioceses in our web portal for upscaling visibility of the presence and the work of the Church in the North Eastern part of India, so that many who do not know about the existence may come to know about us.
5. Despite the simple and noble intention of starting this Forum as stated above, our attention is drawn towards **Canon Code 300** that makes it mandatory for all organisations intending to use the word “Catholic” to obtain permission from the concerned ecclesiastical institution, in our case the North East Bishop’s Council, the esteemed organisation headed by your good self.

We therefore request you to kindly grant permission to use the word “Catholic” as part of the proposed Forum’s name, i.e. **North East Catholic Research Forum**.

For ready reference, a draft Bylaw is enclosed for your kind perusal.

*Respectfully yours in Christ,*



**(Mr. James Pochury)**  
**Convener,**  
**North East [Catholic] Research Forum [NCARF]**