



Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

EMBER LETTERS

The Right Reverend Clark WP Lowenfield

Historically, Ember Day Letters were a key communication means for clergy separated from their Bishop (by miles and without phone or texts) but desiring to stay in a relationship with him. Because this tradition is a good discipline to remind us of the importance of being in a relationship, Postulants and Candidates for the diaconate or priesthood are asked to report to Bishop Lowenfield, in writing, at each of the Ember Day seasons.

Ember Days are days of special prayer for the ministry of the Church. They are traditionally observed on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the First Sunday in Lent, the Day of Pentecost, Holy Cross Day and December 13. It is sufficient to have the letter to the Bishop by the end of the month. Your letters might include references, if applicable, to the following:

1. Content of your studies
2. Challenging or exciting ideas or people you have encountered
3. Nature of your prayer life, challenges and blessings
4. Family life, joys and challenges
5. Community life
6. Recreation
7. Parish life

Please reflect on what the experiences you encounter mean for you. It is not enough to say that you read a book or took a course, but how did it affect you? What might you have learned that you didn't know before? Was it helpful or challenging? Are you struggling with long held beliefs that no longer seem tenable? What are the ups and downs of your spiritual journey? Where are you today and what works? What is hard and why? By explaining our spiritual journey, we begin to understand and respond to the journey of others.

Usually, a page or two is sufficient. Please forward your letters to the Diocesan House – Credentialing Registrar.