Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

 I hope that everyone has been having a good week! It has been so great having twice as many people at weekend Masses as we did before. Even though I’m not sending out attendance list emails for the English Masses, I’m very grateful that those who are not able to come on any given Sunday have been emailing me to let me know. Every week I’m receiving more emails from people who would like to be added to our Mass attendance lists and eventually it seems our list for English Mass may even exceed fifty. Since there are always people who cancel, I don’t think we will have to go back to the old rotations. But those emails letting me know if you’re going out of town and cannot come are very helpful in this regard.

 I wanted to inform everyone about a 54-day Novena that takes place between August 15th and October 7th. Many people offer up this Novena (technically six Novenas) every year as a lead-up to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th, but considering all of the turmoil in our country it seemed fitting to invite parishioners at St. Birgitta’s to participate. Very simply, this devotion calls for us to offer up a Rosary everyday between August 15th and October 7th to petition God and Our Lady for healing for our country and to confirm us in holiness. The problems in our country are very complex but Our Lady has given us the Rosary as a great weapon to cut through the wiles of the evil one and to confound his wicked plans. If you have not been praying your Rosary daily, this Novena is a good time to start! For more information visit https://rosarycoasttocoast.com/54-day-rosary-novena/ There is a great explanation on how to pray the Rosary on the website as well.

 I want to thank all of you who have contributed to the Archbishop’s Catholic Appeal over the past year. As I mentioned recently, we are close to meeting our goal, so some Appeal envelopes have been left by the collection basket for those who would still like to contribute. They will be left out there for a few more weeks so that people from each Mass attendance group have a chance to use an envelope if desired.

 This year I have not yet had a chance to go home and visit family (aside from funerals) or to take any vacation, so I am going to take some time off early in September. I am looking to be gone from August 31st until September 18th. This means that I will be gone for two weekends. Msgr. O’Connor, the director of the Office of Divine Worship, will be filling in to celebrate all the weekend Masses here and in Vernonia. As for daily Masses, since these take place at the same time as Masses in Scappoose at St. Wenceslaus (9:00am), I have talked to Fr. Chuck about having parishioners from here go there to daily Mass while I am gone. If you are a daily Mass participant (even occasionally) here at St. Birgitta’s and would like to go to St. Wenceslaus while I am gone, let me know and I’ll make sure that you are on their list to attend.

 Have a wonderful weekend and, if you’re coming to Mass, we’ll see you then!

God bless,

Fr. Clifton