



September, 2017

Dear Parents:

Welcome to some of you and welcome back to others as we begin our nineteenth year (!) with Armata Bianca (“white army”) here at St. Leo’s. I look forward to praying with your children. For those of you new to our group, at each meeting the children will share a snack together, learn about a special aspect of their Catholic faith, then spend a few quiet moments listening for Jesus’ voice, pray the rosary, offer special prayers of petition and thanksgiving, share answered prayers from the preceding weeks, sing and praise God together. Often, we will kneel in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and stress our Lord’s very real presence here to the children. I have found this helpful in teaching children to grow in reverence for the true presence of God in the Eucharist. And, while doing all of this, your children will have **FUN**. Year after year, children return to Armata Bianca because, truly, they **LOVE** it.

Your children will be encouraged to pray the rosary and to pray often with their families. They will also be encouraged to consecrate themselves to God through Mary (in May, 2018). This is something asked of the children of Fatima in 1917. Frequent reception of the sacraments will be encouraged for children who are old enough, and the importance of confession and the Eucharist will be stressed.

Lastly, the children will be encouraged to offer sacrifices throughout the week. I will explain to them how powerful their prayers and sacrifices are before God and how they can bring about much needed change in the world. Together, we will pray especially for the conversion of sinners, holiness within the family, the unborn, peace in the world, and the intentions of Our Holy Father.

The three children of Fatima will be role models for your children. Lucia dos Santos (age 9) and her cousins, Jacinta (age 6) and Francisco Marto (age 8) spared their homeland, Portugal, from both World War I and II through their prayers and sacrifices. The Fatima message will be shared often with your children.

I have many new things planned for this year – 3 new saint packs have been added and others have been updated; we will learn more about the lives of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco with brand new DVDs that the children will love. Children will begin a new collection of wooden peg dolls – we’ll paint some together and others will be in the saint packs for them to make at home. We’ll continue collecting holy cards, with brand new ones this year. We will meet the second Wednesday of October, November and December, then weekly from January through May. Saint packs will go home beginning January 3. On May 13 at the 9:15 Mass, children will be consecrated to Jesus through Mary. And on May 16 at 2:00 p.m., we will have our annual Rosary Play. All are welcome.

Thank you for bringing your children to Jesus through His Blessed Mother, Mary.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ann Lynch, OFS
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ARMATA BIANCA 2017-2018

Come join your friends and classmates and be a witness
to the power of prayer!

- Who's invited to join? Everyone! BOYS and GIRLS* Invite your friends!
- When do we meet? Wednesdays from October through May after school. **NOTE:** this year we will meet the *second Wednesday of the month in October, November & December*, then every Wednesday (with the exception of a few dates) from January through May.
DATES: Oct. 11#, Nov. 8#, and Dec. 13#; Jan. 3, 10, and 17 (NO meetings January 24 and 31); Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28; Mar. 7, 14 and 21 (NO school/meeting Mar. 28); Apr. 4, 11, 18# and 25#; May 2# and May 9 (LAST MEETING); Additional dates noted on Registration Form.
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.
- What time? From 3:30 to 4:30 ** (unless noted with #; see below).
- Where do we meet? In Room 4, then the chapel of St. Leo the Great Church.
- How do we sign up? Registration forms can be found on the St. Leo School website. Print one out, complete it and bring it to the first meeting.
- What will we do? We'll have a snack, hear stories, do crafts, watch movies, offer prayer intentions, pray the rosary, sing and praise God!
- What should we bring? A rosary if you have one, and for those of you returning from last year, your **Armata Bianca holy card prayer book**.



* Armata Bianca seeks out boys and girls ages 3 through 12, but children of all ages are welcome. Anyone in 5th grade or above will be part of Armata Bianca T.E.A.M. (**Teach. Encourage. Assist. Mentor.**)

** An adult will walk the children to the chapel after school. Parents are asked to pick their children up promptly at 4:30 outside the chapel.

PLEASE KEEP NOISE LEVEL TO A MINIMUM AS ADORATION TAKES PLACE EVERY WEDNESDAY.

These meetings **ONLY** will end at 5:00 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m.

WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR ... We collected holy cards (and made books to keep them in) ... we gave ourselves to God through Mary in the act of consecration ... we learned about the miracle of Bolsena ... we sang songs ... we each got a chance to take the statue of our Blessed Mother home with us for a week ... we made Holy Family pins ... we learned about St. Nicholas (and he filled our shoes with candy while we were praying the rosary!) ... we spent time with Jesus in adoration ... we learned about Our Lady of Lourdes and all received a blessing with some holy water from Lourdes ... we each got a chance to "adopt a saint" for a week ... we watched movies ... we learned about the Scapular and Miraculous Medal (and all got one!) ... we sent Valentines to the Pope, the Bishop and the President (we even received a letter from the President and the Pope!)... we took turns leading the rosary ... and we prayed together and waited as God heard and answered those prayers!

NEW SAINT PACKS ADDED THIS YEAR!

T.E.A.M. 5th through 8th graders will become part of Armata Bianca T.E.A.M., will sit at the T.E.A.M. table, will assist the younger children and will participate in their own activities throughout the year.

It's our 19th year!

"Armata Bianca seeks to teach children to pray and do penance and to help them realize how truly powerful their prayers are before God the Father. Through its primary actions, love for the Blessed Sacrament, particularly in Eucharistic Adoration, and love for our Blessed Mother, particularly through the rosary, Armata Bianca seeks to inspire its members and their families to live according to the will of God in perfect charity." (By-Laws, Armata Bianca)



Armata Bianca Registration Form 2017-2018

Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Parents' Names:	
Mother's Cell:	
Father's Cell:	
Primary E-mail:	
Date of Birth:	
School:	
Grade:	
Emergency Contact:	
Any Food Allergies:	

All families will have an opportunity to have the statue of the Blessed Mother in their homes and are asked to provide snack that same week. Please indicate your first and second choice using the dates below.

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

October 11*

November 8*

December 13*

January 3, 10, 17 (NO meetings Jan. 24 and 31)

February 7, 14, 21 and 28

March 7, 14 and 21 (NO meeting/school on March 28)

April 4, 11, 18* and 25*

May 2* and 9

*Indicates meetings that end at 5:00; all others end at 4:30