

'World Marriage Day' to be celebrated Feb. 8

World Marriage Day will be celebrated this year on Feb. 8 to honor husbands and wives as the foundation of the family and to pay tribute to the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy that comes with the daily life of married couples.

Sponsored by the Catholic-formed Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the special day is observed annually on the second Sunday of February. The origins of World Marriage Day date back to the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement in the early 1980s in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. What began as a grassroots movement quickly gained momentum. By 1982, 43 state governors had officially recognized the day. The name was formally changed to World Marriage Day in 1983. And, in 1993, Pope John Paul II imparted his Apostolic Blessing upon the observance.

"Finding your partner in life, someone to laugh, love, and share adventures with is like discovering the perfect hidden gem," said Brian and Claudine Perry, Hawaii Encounter leaders of WWME. "World Marriage Day is a time to celebrate the commitment, benefits and joy of marriage. This is a great excuse for couples to put their busy lives on pause to appreciate each other."

There are several ways for couples to celebrate. A few include:

- **Go on a Date:** Whether it is a weekend getaway, a romantic dinner or a simple picnic in the park, taking time for couples to enjoy each other is essential.
- **Congratulate Long-Time Couples:** Reach out to parents, grandparents, or friends who have "gone the distance." Ask for their stories and tips.
- **Join a World Marriage Day Event:** Look for local events hosted by churches or organizations that honor the occasion.

The 2026 schedule for Hawaii weekend experiences includes:

- **April 24–26:** A non-residential experience on Oahu (location to be decided).
- **July 10–12:** A residential experience at St. Anthony Retreat Center, Kalihi Valley, Oahu.
- **Aug. 14–16:** A non-residential experience at St. Anthony Parish, Wailuku, Maui.

To apply or for more information, visit www.hawaiwwme.org or contact Brian and Claudine Perry; brian.claudine.perry@wwme.org; or call (808) 276-5720/1.

For more information on World Marriage Day resources, visit wmd.wwme.org.