



# worldwide marriage encounter®

## Enriching the Sacraments of Marriage & Holy Orders

**I**ntroduced to the United States in 1967, in conjunction with the Christian Family Movement Conference, Worldwide Marriage Encounter offered couples and priests a counter-cultural option to the turbulent social and moral revolution of the late 1960's. In the midst of that era's secular message - make love, not war - WWME was calling the faithful to a very different kind of love., and still does so today.



**Love one another as I have loved you - John 15:12**

Today, Worldwide Marriage Encounter continues its mission to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders, both in the Church and in the world. Active in over 94 countries, including China, Haiti, Cuba, Russia and the UAE, the movement has impacted the lives of over 3.5 million couples and 27,000 priests and religious. WWME has been working with Vatican officials over the past few years and, at the end of 2023, submitted its statutes and the final paperwork for recognition as an International Association of the Faithful through the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

**1**

### ENCOUNTER

We provide a weekend experience to reawaken the couple's and priest's sense of mission and vocation.

**2**

### ENCOURAGE

We provide community support that offers on-going opportunities for enrichment and growth.

**3**

### EVANGELIZE

We call couples and priests to "spend" their sacrament building up the Domestic and Universal Church.



### Pope St John Paul II

"I place much of my hope for the future in Marriage Encounter."



### Pope Benedict XVI

"Marriage Encounter, yes! You are doing such important work in our Church."



### Pope Francis

"For all of you in Worldwide Marriage Encounter . . . You must keep lighting the way for others."

## WWME and Amoris Laetitia

**For over five decades, the Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience has equipped married couples to live out the concepts of Amoris Laetitia.**

### WWME's core tenets are:

**Encounter with Self/Feelings:** To love is also to be gentle and thoughtful . . . which requires a person to “develop his or her mind and feelings, learning to listen, to speak and, at certain times, to keep quiet.” AL 99

**Dialogue as a Communication Tool:** Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing and fostering love in marriage and family life . . . Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say . . . We have to put ourselves in their shoes and try to peer into their hearts, to perceive their deepest concerns and to take them as a point of departure for further dialogue. AL 136-138

**Love is a Decision:** (T)he initial decision has to be frequently renewed . . . He or she is a companion on life's journey, one with whom to face life's difficulties and enjoy its pleasures . . . There is no guarantee that we will feel the same way all through life. Yet if a couple can come up with a shared and lasting life project, they can love one another and live as one until death do them part, enjoying an enriching intimacy. The love they pledge is greater than any emotion, feeling or state of mind . . . It is a deeper love, a lifelong decision of the heart. AL 163

**Forgiveness:** Once we allow ill-will to take root in our hearts, it leads to deep resentment . . . The opposite of resentment is forgiveness, which is rooted in a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people's weaknesses and excuse them . . . When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy . . . It requires, in fact, a ready and generous openness of each and all to understanding, to forbearance, to pardon, to reconciliation. AL 105.

**Marriage as Sacrament:** Marriage is a precious sign, for “when a man and woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, ‘mirrored’ in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us. AL 121

**Support through Community:** There are also the contributions made by groups of married couples that provide assistance as part of their commitment to serve, prayer, formation and mutual support. Such groups enable couples to . . . strengthen marriages and help them to grow. AL 229

**Living our Sacrament Daily:** Just as fine wine begins to “breathe” with time, so too the daily experience of fidelity gives married life richness and “body” . . . The love present from the beginning becomes more conscious, settled and mature as the couple discover each other anew day after day, year after year . . . St. John of the Cross tells us . . . they “are outwardly no longer afire with powerful emotions and impulses, but now taste the sweetness of the wine of love, well-aged and stored deep within their hearts.” AL 231

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER IN GREATER KANSAS CITY

**364**

Couples who have had their marriages enriched by a WWME weekend in the last 10 years.

**54**

Couples who have experienced a WWME parish-based enrichment in the past 2 years.

**10**

Active sharing communities providing on-going support to couples on both sides of the state line.

**6+2**

Couples & Priests dedicated to sharing the WWME Experience with couples & priests in our area.