



## Foreword

Are you ready to read one of the most powerful conversion stories ever written? Seriously, are you? It's a bold and shocking claim, I admit. But the story you are about to have the pleasure of reading is so intense and brutally candid that I wouldn't be surprised if it brings you to tears multiple times and opens the door to an experience of mercy and healing. This story is made for the big screen, and I pray it makes it there someday. It's that incredible.

When my friend Christine Watkins asked me to read the manuscript for *Transfigured* and pray about writing the foreword, I had to confess to her that I had never heard of Patricia Sandoval. After Christine told me a little about Patricia and piqued my interest with the subtitle, I realized that I couldn't turn down an offer to support a work that magnifies the mercy of God, offers a journey of inner healing from one's past, holiness for the future, and exposes the inner workings of Planned Parenthood.

Christine probably thought I would identify with the story since I had undergone a radical conversion and found freedom in Jesus, Mary, and Catholicism. My hunch about that turned out to be right. But I was unprepared for the intense emotional experience I would have while reading this book.

I couldn't put the thing down! The story of "the chick from Petaluma," as Patricia calls herself, completely drew me in. I became consumed with finding out what would happen on the next page. Not knowing her personally didn't matter. I've known a thousand souls like her. I'm one of them.

What is contained in these pages is about as raw, real, and riveting as a story can get. It is filled with heartache, pain, loss, forgiveness, tears, reconciliation, and joy. It's a story of God romancing a soul. Patricia is so ruggedly honest that she even admits to falling back into the same deadly sins after receiving countless graces and mercies from Jesus and Mary. This is part of what makes her testimony so real and so apropos for our times. Modern men and women, teenage boys and girls, need this witness.

*Transfigured* is masterfully written too. In addition to its message of love and mercy, each chapter is packed with the heart-wrenching reality of just how evil the world has become. You might wonder, at times, if certain facts related to Patricia's experience can be verified. Those questions are answered at the end of each chapter with statistics and well-researched bits of data that expose important lies and falsehoods of our times. These eye-opening "fact sections" provide a much-needed reality check for all of us.

Chances are that, like me, you don't know Patricia personally and that your name isn't in this book. But I believe you'll find yourself here. We are all inside these pages. If you do not identify directly with Patricia, you will connect with someone else in her story, and it will cause you to come face to face with your own story of brokenness and need for mercy. The world, especially Catholics, need to know this story of redemption. Reading it was an emotional rollercoaster for me, but thanks to Patricia's courage in sharing, I have found renewed hope and healing. I believe this book can be healing for you too.

So prepare yourselves for a wild ride, my friends. You are going to witness the innocence and beauty of a woman being restored. You are going to learn how Jesus, Mary, and Catholicism have the power to transfigure any soul.

And I'll bet you're going to want to be transfigured, too.

Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC  
Author of *No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy* and  
*Champions of the Rosary*