

CHAPTER XII-For Greater Things

In Chapter XII of "For Greater Things: The Story of Saint Stanislaus Kostka," the narrative progresses as Canisius, recognizing Stanislaus Kostka's humble disposition and dedication, decides that for Stanislaus to evade further disturbances from his family, it would be best for him to journey to Rome and join the Novitiate there. He is promised a letter of introduction to Father General Francis Borgia and is to travel with two company members already bound for Rome. To prepare, Stanislaus is fitted with decent clothing by the college tailor, replacing his worn tunic—undertaking the journey with a sense of belonging and purpose, a contrast to his previously perilous travels.

Starting around September 20th, they travel by foot, traversing through Bavaria, crossing the Tyrolese Alps, and entering the plains of Northern Italy, finally reaching Rome on October 25th. The journey is detailed with vivid descriptions of the changing landscapes—from the towering, snowy Alps to the fertile plains of Italy—and Stanislaus's interactions with his environment and fellow travelers. Unlike his first solitary and strenuous trek, this journey is marked by companionship, spiritual communion, and anticipation, making the long distances and difficult terrains more bearable and even enjoyable at times.

Upon arriving in Rome, their reception by Francis Borgia is warm, and Stanislaus's aspirations are swiftly realized when he is officially accepted into the Novitiate. His journey to Rome not only concludes a physical transition from his homeland but also symbolizes his spiritual journey towards a devout commitment to the Society of Jesus. The chapter encapsulates his transition into a life dedicated to his faith, marked by the start of his noviceship and his integration into the community that includes notable figures such as Claude Acquaviva, adding a layer of significance to his arrival and the company he would keep during his noviceship.

This phase of Stanislaus's journey is reflective of his growth, not just in geographic terms but in his spiritual and personal development, as he moves closer to his calling, surrounded by companions and guides who appreciate and recognize his virtues and potential, setting the stage for his contributions to the Society of Jesus and the impact his legacy would have on the faith and beyond.

