CHAPTER XIV-For Greater Things

Chapter XIV of "For Greater Things: The Story of Saint Stanislaus Kostka" titled "Going Home" captures the final moments of Stanislaus Kostka as he nears the end of his life. In this chapter, Stanislaus, a novice for nine months, experiences profound moments that foreshadow his imminent passing. During a visit from Peter Canisius to the noviciate at Sant' Andrea, Stanislaus makes a startling prediction after Canisius' sermon, claiming the month of August would be his last on Earth—a statement that initially goes unnoticed due to Stanislaus' apparent robust health.

The narrative follows Stanislaus through significant religious experiences and personal revelations, highlighting his deep connection to his faith and the divine. His anticipation of joining the feast of the Assumption in heaven is poignantly illustrated in conversations with Father Emmanuel de Sa and through his actions, such as writing a heartfelt letter to the Virgin Mary, which he carries during Communion.

Despite his physical health showing no signs of ailment initially, Stanislaus' spiritual conviction about his forthcoming death grows stronger. He starts preparing for his end with calm and deliberate steps, engaging in acts of penance and devotional practices dedicated to Saint Lawrence, his patron for the month. As his premonition becomes reality, and Stanislaus falls ill quite suddenly, he welcomes his fate with peace and assurance, eager for his "home-going."

Stanislaus' final days are spent in reflection, prayer, and moments of farewell, surrounded by fellow novices and religious figures like Claude Acquaviva and Father Fazio. His death is portrayed as a serene transition, marked by rituals of faith and expressions of community. The chapter closes with Stanislaus' death on the night of August 14, surrounded by the prayers and care of his fellow novices and mentors, capturing his departure from this world as a return to his heavenly home, fulfilling his own prophetic words and demonstrating his unwavering faith.