

PREFACE

William T. Kane's preface to "FOR GREATER THINGS: The Story of Saint Stanislaus Kostka" embarks on the defense and illustration of the extraordinary virtues and sanctity found within the youthful adherents of the Catholic faith, presenting Saint Stanislaus Kostka as a paramount model. It delves into the notable triumph and mastery over human frailties—such as weakness and pride—achieved by young individuals within the Catholic Church, a distinction deemed remarkably rare and immensely challenging. The narrative questions how, amidst a backdrop of skepticism and worldly cynicism, the youth, particularly those like Stanislaus, can exhibit profound spiritual valiance and wisdom that surpasses the philosophical and moral endeavors of many esteemed adults.

Kane enlightens the reader on the often supernatural clarity surrounding the lives of saints like Stanislaus, emphasizing that their youthful purity, firm will, and prioritization of spiritual over material values pose questions that defy purely naturalistic explanations. He highlights the miraculous manner in which these young individuals attain a profound understanding of life's ultimate purpose, a comprehension deeply rooted in divine grace rather than mere natural development.

The author acknowledges potential criticism regarding his lively portrayal of sanctity, arguing instead that the vibrant, energetic essence of saints reflects their perpetual youthfulness and enduring alignment with the generous and unfettered nature of childhood. Kane posits that saints, through their boundless love for God, venture into life's trials with a spirit of heroic adventure, transforming the arduous path to holiness into a captivating journey marked by divine romance. The love of God, he asserts, is the critical element that kindles the heart's pursuit of sanctity, enabling saints to transcend the mundane and embrace the extraordinary.

The preface sets a tone of inspiration and admiration for the profound spiritual life led by Saint Stanislaus Kostka, underlining the significant role of divine love in the attainment of holiness. It beckons the reader, especially the youthful, to envision sanctity not as an unreachable ideal but as a vivid, spirited adventure achievable through genuine love and faith in God.

