

CHAPTER III -For Greater Things

In Chapter III of "For Greater Things: The Story of Saint Stanislaus Kostka," the narrative follows the aftermath of Stanislaus Kostka's escape to join the Society of Jesus, highlighting the distress it caused his family and their fear of Lord John Kostka's wrath. Bilinski and Paul Kostka, deeply troubled, discover a letter from Stanislaus explaining his need to follow God's call, which they forward to his father, along with reassurances from others involved in the unsuccessful pursuit. Lord John's furious reaction includes blaming the Jesuits and vowing to drag Stanislaus back in chains, reflecting his deep love for his son and the honor of his house. Despite his noble status and high hopes for Stanislaus, Lord John is heartbroken over his son's choice.

The chapter delves into Stanislaus's early life, emphasizing his inherent dedication to God, even in a hostile environment. Despite the usual inclinations and temptations faced by young men, Stanislaus is portrayed as a steadfast fighter against sin, demonstrating courage and purity even among the rough men of his time. His resistance to vile speech and commitment to purity are highlighted as acts of significant effort and dedication to God, challenging the notion that saints live lives of effortless virtue. Stanislaus's early piety and struggle against temptation underscore his remarkable spiritual strength and deep faith.

Through Stanislaus's story, the chapter invites readers to recognize the profound challenges and choices that define sanctity, urging a reevaluation of what it means to live a holy life. It portrays sanctity not as a path of ease but as a journey of continuous effort, resilience, and unwavering faith in God's will.