

CHAPTER X -For Greater Things

In Chapter X titled "THE RUNAWAY" of "FOR GREATER THINGS: The story of Saint Stanislaus Kostka," Stanislaus Kostka decides to run away from his hostile living situation, particularly the abuse from his brother Paul. Unlike his previous reactions to Paul's mistreatment—where Stanislaus would internally manage his anger—this time, he chooses a path that would liberate him from further abuse. He prepares for his departure by purchasing a peasant's tunic and rough shoes suitable for a long journey.

Paul's temper flares again over something trivial Stanislaus does, leading Paul to attempt to physically assault him. However, Stanislaus, with a newfound resolve, firmly defends himself and informs Paul that he will no longer tolerate his brutality and is planning to leave in search of peace. This unexpected resistance frightens Paul, who is taken aback by Stanislaus's strong and determined demeanor. Despite Paul's blustering and swearing, Stanislaus remains unmoved and declares his intention to leave, advising Paul to explain the situation to their father.

After the confrontation, Stanislaus feels a sense of relief and focuses on his journey ahead to Augsburg. He spends his last night at home praying and resting. Before dawn, he dresses in his finest clothes and leaves a letter for Paul and his father, entrusting it to a servant named Pacifici, whom he wakes to inform of his departure. He instructs Pacifici on what to say if anyone asks about his whereabouts. Stanislaus then leaves his home and heads to the Jesuit church, where he participates in Mass and receives Holy Communion, marking the beginning of his escape and the next chapter of his life. This decision and act of defiance mark a pivotal moment in Stanislaus's life, representing his commitment to pursuing a life of faith and service away from the abuse and conflict within his family.