

Saint Stanislaus Kostka

1550 - 1568

PURGATORY

One day a soul from Purgatory completely enveloped in flames which caused him terrible suffering appeared to the Polish Jesuit, Saint Stanislaus Kostka. The Saint asked if that fire was similar to the one existing on earth. The soul responded that the fire on earth was nothing other than a soft zephyr compared to the fire of Purgatory. Stanislaus, not believing much in the words of the deceased, asked if it was possible to experience the intensity of that heat. The soul then said: "Ah! A man still alive is not able to feel even a small part of it. Nevertheless, to be convinced, extend your hand towards me and you will get an idea."

The Saint extended his hand and the soul let fall a drop of sweat. As soon as the drop touched his hand, Stanislaus started to scream from the pain and fainted. His brethren rushed to his screams and as soon as he was able to reawaken himself, they asked him the reason for such suffering. The Saint recounted to them what happened and invited them to do penance for their sins and to flee from sinful occasions to avoid that very intense suffering.

Saint Kostka lived one more year always with excruciating pains in his hand, on which a sore formed that never healed.

