

Vitality!

19th Annual Charlotte Mason Gathering

Living Education Retreat

NANCY KELLY
SAGE PARNASSUS



Vitality



Hidden Force of a
Charlotte Mason
Education

Vitality

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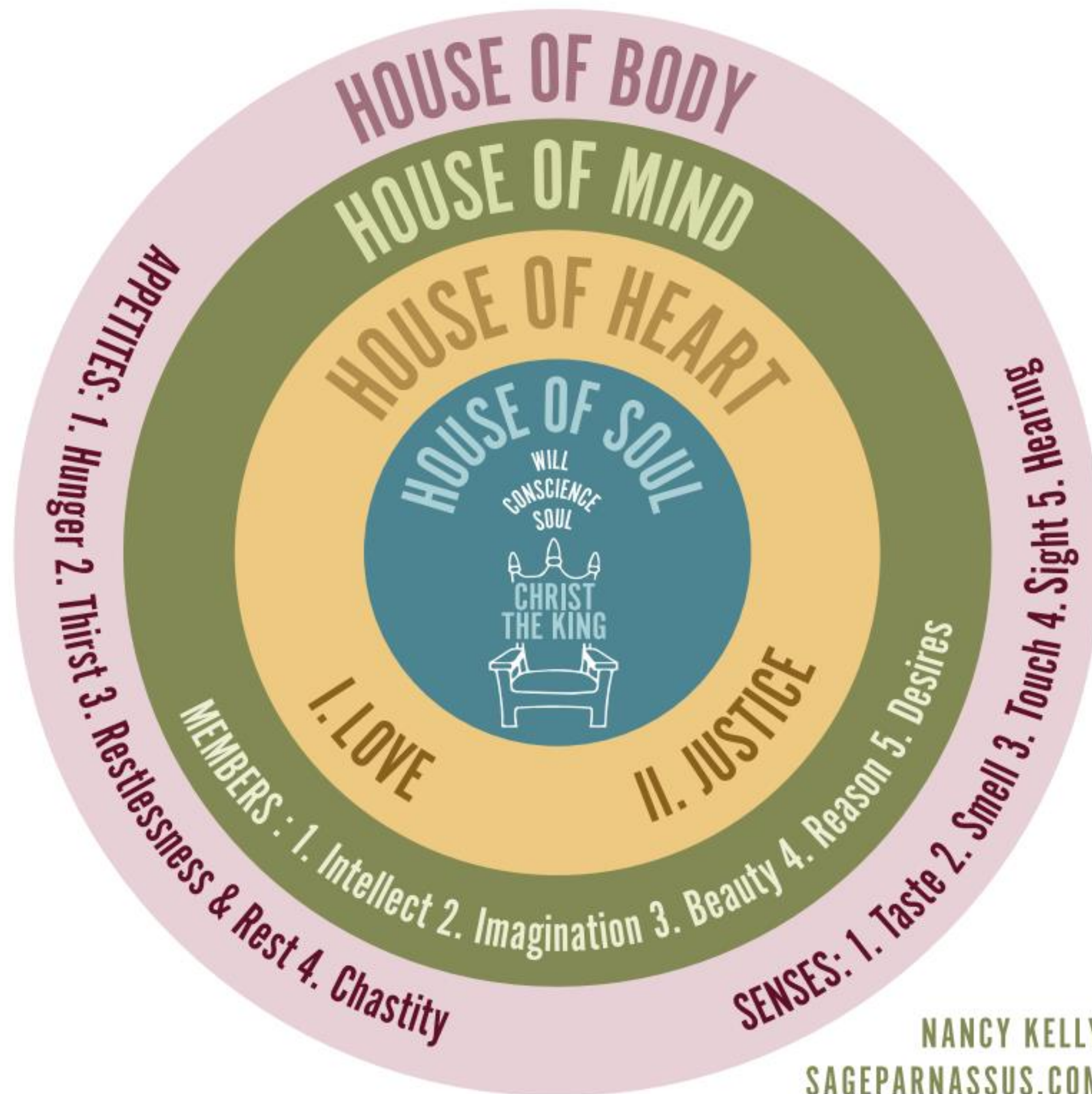
Derived from Latin “vita” = life

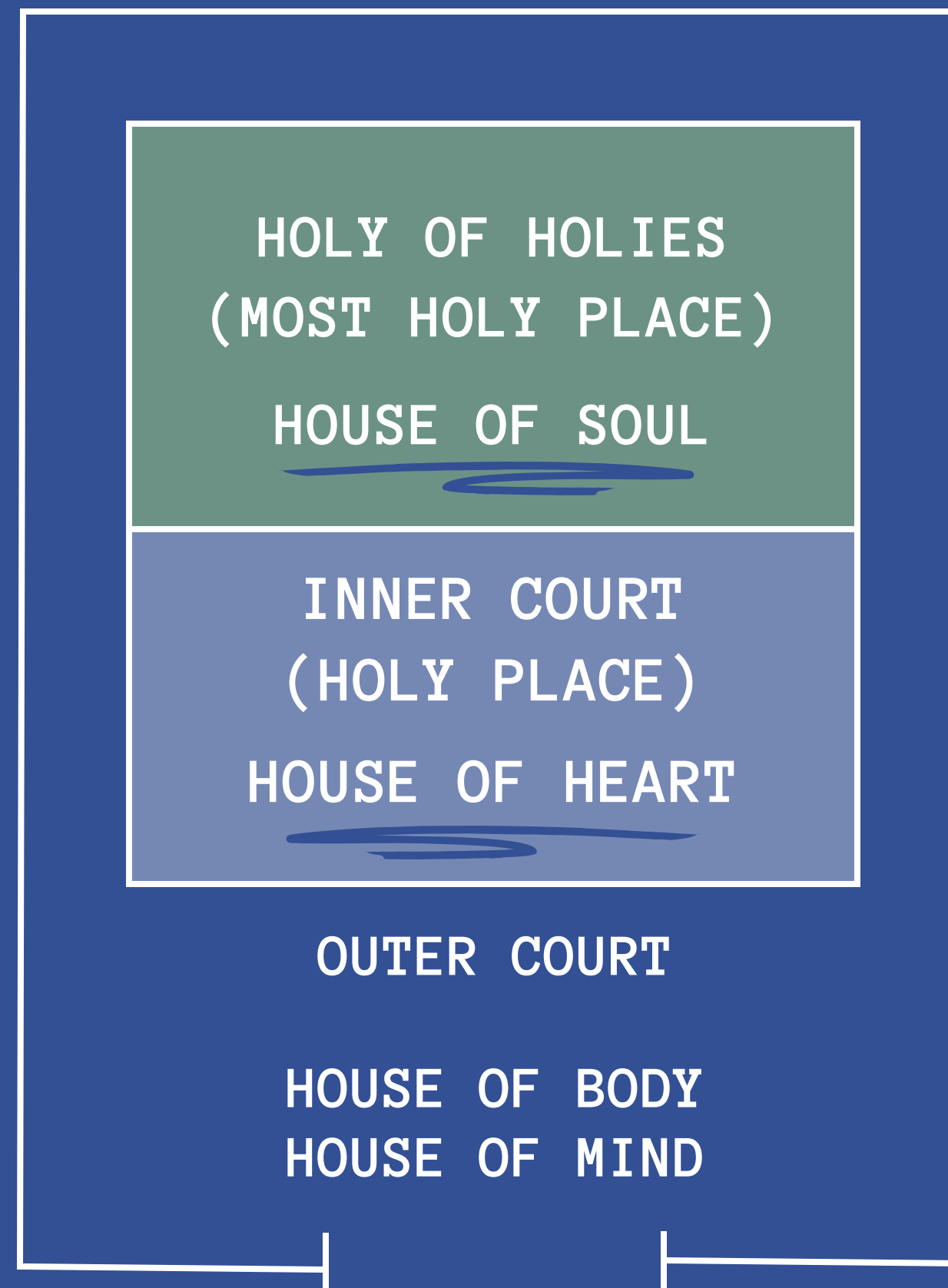
Definition

: the peculiarity distinguishing
the

living from the nonliving

: capacity to live and develop





THE TABERNACLE

MANSOUL

But life, like the tabernacle in the wilderness, has its three courts. There is the outer court where living things blossom and bear fruit, eat and drink, and sleep and play; and this life is holy, ... There is the Holy place (or inner court) where not all living beings walk, but only mankind, because men are able to think and to love; this life also is sustained upon Christ, who is our Life. Within, there is the Holy of Holies, where man communicates with God and consciously receives in Christ the life of his spirit.

–Charlotte Mason, *Scale How Meditations* #21



Our Lord is not wearied with the wilfulness of the people. In answer to their querulous demand He reveals the origin of all that nourishes men in body, soul, and spirit. The poem who fires us with high thoughts, the inventor who makes the ways of life easy, the farmer who produces bread – it is not Moses nor another; not any of these from whom we get the food that quickens us – they are but the vehicles.

–Charlotte Mason, *Scale How Meditations*, #22



PICTURE STUDY

Mrs. Colles


The Parents' Review, Volume 2,

Bukovac's Picture

1891/92, pg. 847–853

Vlaho Bukovac (1855–1922)





ALL our teaching of children should be given reverently, with the humble sense that we are invited in this matter to co-operate with the Holy Spirit; but it should be given dutifully and diligently, with the awful sense that our co-operation would appear to be made a condition of the Divine action; that the Saviour of the world pleads with us to 'suffer the little children to come unto Me,' as if we had the power to hinder, as we know that we have.

—Charlotte Mason, Vol. 2, p. 48

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS

Facts and Ideas

The child must learn...in order that *ideas* may be freely sown in the fruitful soil of his mind. ‘*Idea*, the image or picture formed by the mind of anything external, whether sensible or spiritual,’ therefore, if the business of teaching be to furnish the child with ideas, any teaching which does not leave him possessed of a new mental image has, by so far, missed its mark. Now, just think of the listless way in which the children too often drag through reading and tables, geography and sums, and you will see that it is a rare thing for any part of any lesson to flash upon them with the vividness which leaves a mental picture behind. It is not too much to say that a morning in which a child receives no new idea is a morning wasted, however closely the little student has been kept at his books.

–Charlotte Mason, *Home Education*, p. 173

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS
SYSTEM

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS
METHOD

System and Method

Method implies two things—a way to an end, and step-by-step progress in that way. Further, the following of a method implies an idea, a mental image, of the end or object to be arrived at. What do you propose that education shall effect in and for your child? Again, method is natural; easy, yielding, unobtrusive, simple as the ways of Nature herself; yet, watchful, careful, all-pervading, all-compelling. Method, with the *end* of education in view, presses the most unlikely matters into service to bring about that end; but with no more tiresome mechanism than the sun employs when it makes the winds to blow and the waters to flow only by shining.

—Charlotte Mason, *Home Education*, p. 8

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS
SYSTEM
RECIPE

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS
METHOD
THOUGHT

Recipe and Thought

Useful though this power of storing up and handing on experiences may be, the recipe-habit of mind is a dangerous one. Is it, perhaps, of the nature of the leaven of the Pharisees, a trust in the letter which killeth as opposed to the spirit which giveth life? Beware of the leaven! To live by recipe is a great temptation in this efficient and hurried age, it saves time and trouble, it entirely does away with the arduous task of thinking.

—Essex Cholmondeley, “Recipe Versus Thought”, *P.R.* 36, 1925

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS
SYSTEM
RECIPE
AFTER

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS
METHOD
THOUGHT
BEFORE

After and Before

“May we do it?” cannot be decided by imagining or remembering what will probably follow if we do; this is merely ‘looking after.’ It is the underlying principle, brought to mind and carefully held in view —“looking before” —which should give the final word of permission. Miss Mason left no recipes behind her. She believed in thinking persons, therefore she bequeathed certain principles based upon truth itself. Every parent and teacher is free to apply these principles in ever fresh practice according as new needs and difficulties arise.

—Essex Cholmondeley, “Recipe Versus Thought”, *P.R.* 36, 1925

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS
SYSTEM
RECIPE
AFTER
RESULTS/REWARDS

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS
METHOD
THOUGHT
BEFORE
RELATIONSHIPS

Results and Relationships

God is more interested in relationship than in the speed of our progress; he is more concerned with lifting our gaze, provoking our song, and stimulating our imaginations with his goodness and glory than in simply bringing us over the finish line.

—Kelly Kapic, *You Were Never Meant To Do It All*

Inanition

(DEAD)

FACTS
SYSTEM
RECIPE
AFTER
RESULTS/REWARDS
RIGOROUS
SURVIVING

Vitality

(LIVING)

IDEAS
METHOD
THOUGHT
BEFORE
RELATIONSHIPS
VIGOROUS
THRIVING

Work, wine, art, pleasure, politics, the passion of love, all have been tried again and again, and have been found wanting. They give, indeed, the sort of galvanic life of the moment, which fails so soon as the stimulus is no longer applied. But life, no longer conscious of limitations, life of joyous, generous, expansion, free and gay as the bird's life, dutiful and humble as the life of angels—this sort of glad living is the instant reward and result of that recognition of the Son which we call faith.

—Charlotte Mason, *Scale How Meditations* #17

You will show me the path of life; In your
presence is fullness of joy; In your right
hand there are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11

And do not be worried, for the joy of the
Lord is your strength and your stronghold.

Nehemiah 8:10

God grant that you may
go back with higher aspirations,
quickenened enthusiasms,
and increased vitality of
body, mind, and spirit.

–Charlotte Mason

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Thank you