ST. JOSEPH
GUARDIAN OF THE HOLY FAMILY
PARISH

Adult Faith Formation

Learning to Pray with
St. Teresa of Avila:
The Interior Castle

The Interior Castle:
Learning How to Pray from Saint Teresa of Avila
Session 5: 7th Dwelling Places

August 11, 2022

Opening Prayer

All: **Come, Holy Spirit,**
fill the hearts of Thy faithful
and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Leader: *Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.*

All: **And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All **O God, Who did instruct the hearts of Thy faithful**
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same Spirit
to be truly wise,
and ever to rejoice in His consolation,
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
all things pass,
God does not change.
Patience
obtains all,
who has God
lacks nothing,
only God suffices.

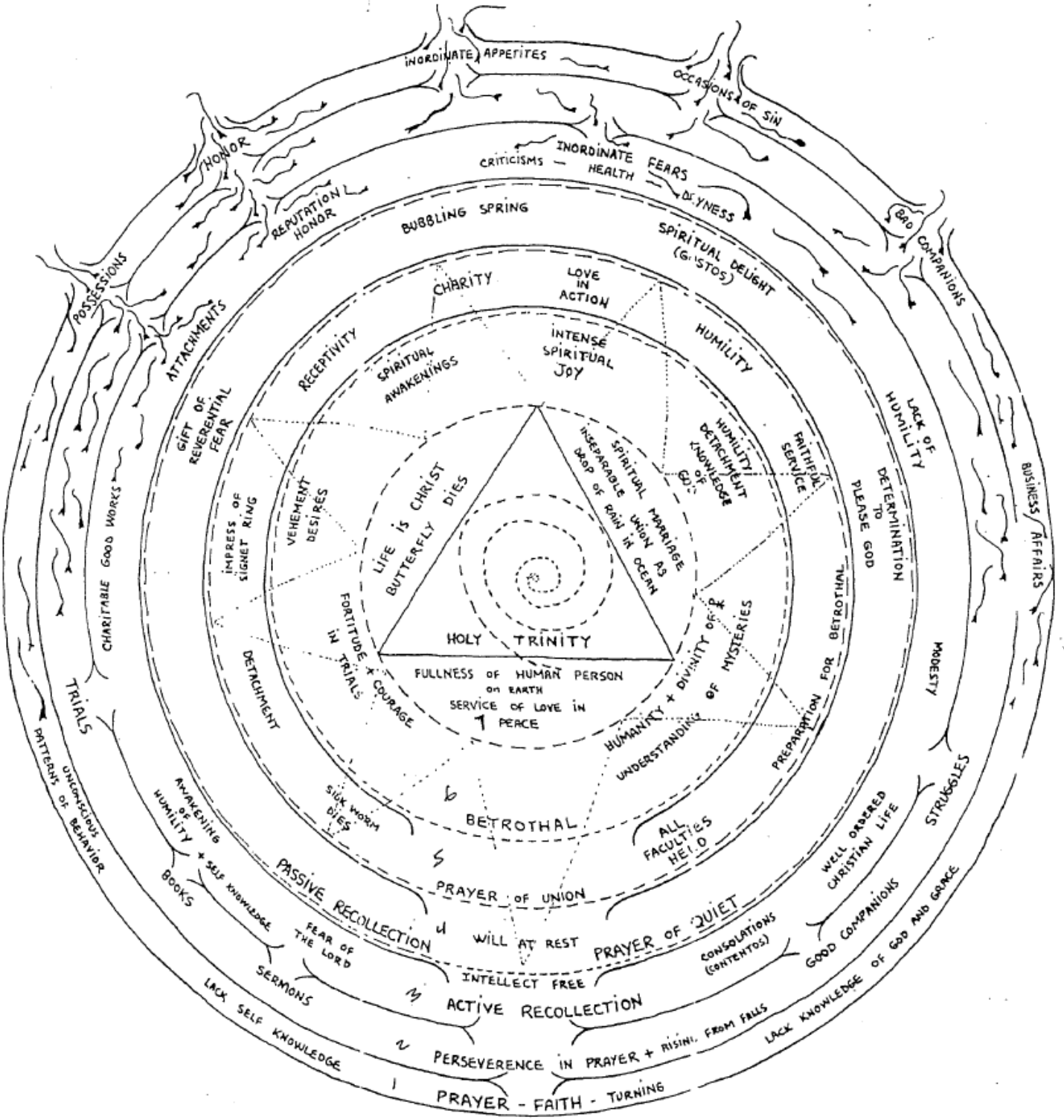
The Dwellings So Far

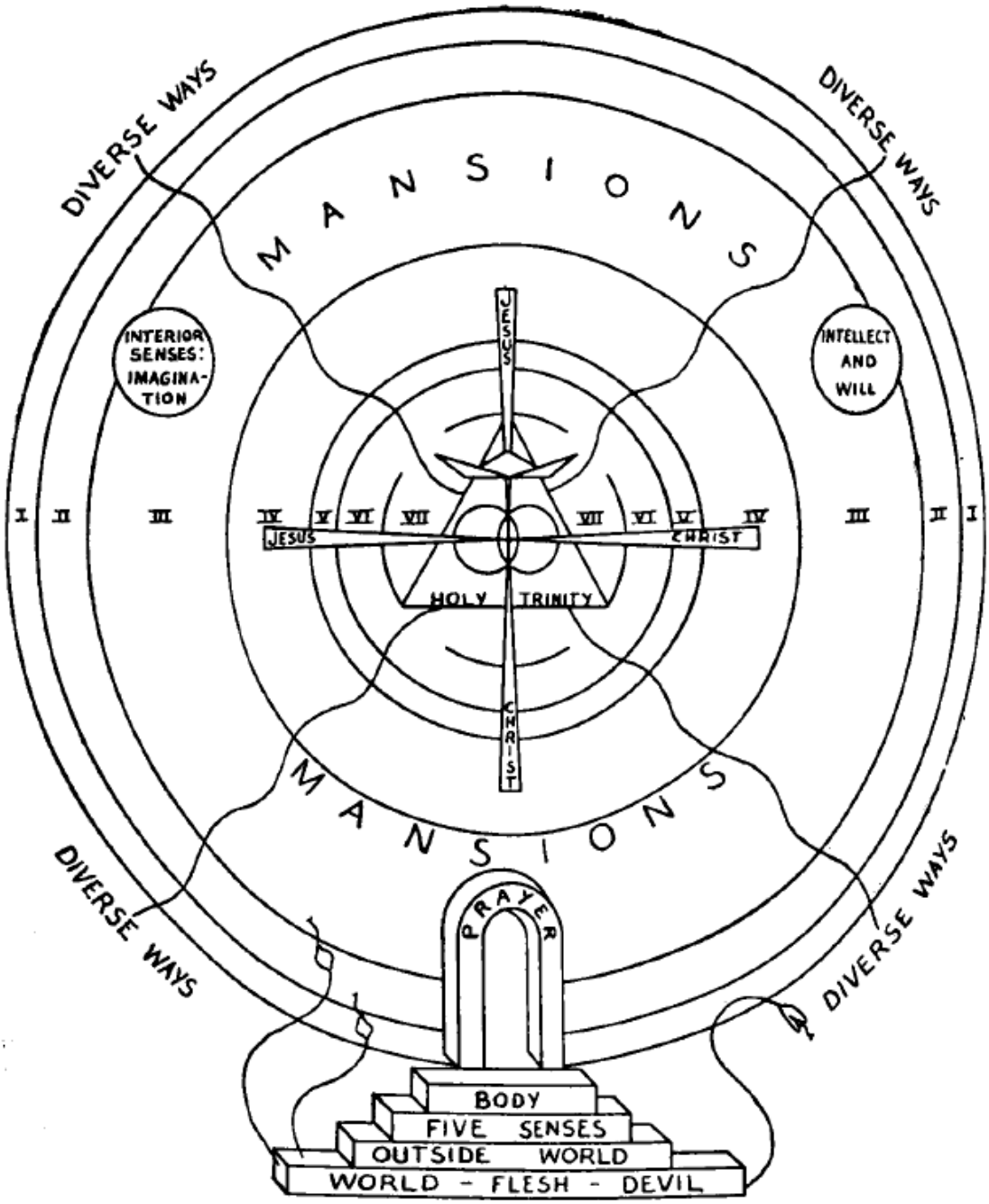
- 1st Dwellings: coming to know yourself and entering into relationship with God.
- 2nd Dwellings: struggling against evil, building up fortitude, detachment, humility.
- 3rd Dwellings: growth in humility, detachment from world, dependence on God.
- 4th Dwellings: surrender of will, recollection of mind & senses, gift of prayer of quiet.
- 5th Dwellings: beginning of prayer of union, death & new life in Christ, rule of love.
- 6th Dwellings: pain of love, delight to die for Jesus, gratitude for mercy, joy of praise, solidarity with humanity, humanity of Christ, truth & desire – waiting, solitude.

The 7th Dwellings Summary

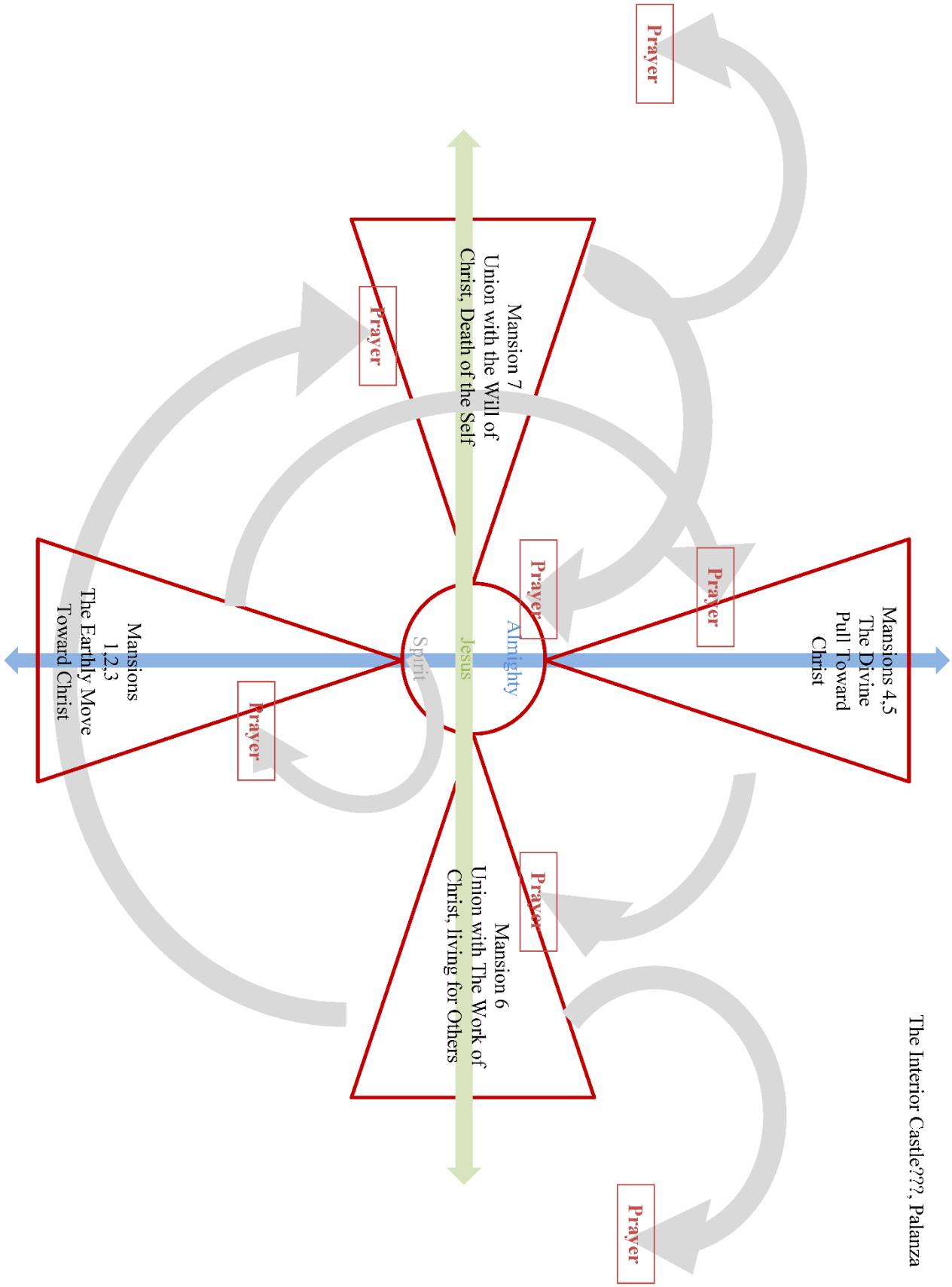
Now, because of what the soul has been suffering because of its desires, God brings it into his dwelling place, which is the seventh, the dwelling place of sanctity. Four chapters make up Teresa's discussion of this place. First of all, sanctity is a Trinitarian fact which takes place within the soul of the Christian and transforms it (7.1). Now, holiness for the Christian derives from the holiness of Jesus Christ and is realized through the relationship of a human being with Christ (7.2). So sanctity, or holiness, in its anthropological dimension is a fact of human plenitude: of the maturity of the new self in the development of its new life (7.3). Finally, sanctity is something that overflows the strict limits of the subject; it is grace for others, for the human community, for the sake of assuming the condition of a servant of God. This means that the Christian holiness has an ecclesiastical dimension, and by that fact entails the charism of service of one's brothers and sisters (7.4).

Visual Representation of the Interior Castle: Sr. Vilma Seelaus





The Interior Castle: the soul. *Door to the Castle*: prayer. *Inside the Castle*: a) The King: the Triune God (triangle surmounted by crown). b) Jesus (cross): in the first three Mansions: our Model; in the last four: our Means to Divine Union, Spiritual Marriage. c) Spiritual Marriage (entwined rings within the triangle). d) Interior senses. e) Faculties of the soul: intellect and will (small circle to right). f) The seven Mansions: graduating degrees of perfection (spaces enclosed by concentric circles). g) Access between sixth and seventh Mansions (opened circle between the two). h) Diverse ways: various graces and attractions in the interior life (wavy lines or radii). *Outside the Castle*: a) The body. b) The five senses. c) The outside world. d) The three enemies of the soul indicated by stylised serpents).



The Interior Castle???, Palanza