153 Out of Doors (*Foris*)

The sinner is said to be out of doors, for one who cannot make the payment of his house is excluded, because the door is closed to him lest he enter. So, he who does not pay what is required in baptism and in penance is shut out of the Church. Osee [9:15]:

¶ “For the wickedness of their devices I will cast them forth out of my house.” 2 Kings 13[:17]: “Thrust this woman out from me: and shut the door after her.” What is thus evident he who is in a strong house rests securely against the perils of robbers and drunkards, but he who is outside is exposed to many evils. So, concerning that one who is inside the Church, he is saved; who is outside is in danger, Amos 5[:16]: “In all places that are without, they shall say: Alas, alas!” And Luke 13[:25, 28]: “When the master of the house shall be gone in, and shall shut the door, you shall begin to stand without, and knock at the door,” etc., up to “and you yourselves thrust out.”

¶ Again, the sinner is outside from the advantage of every merit. As long as the branch is attached to the tree it flourishes, because it participates in the food of the roots, but separated from the tree it withers and then it is thrown into the fire, so it is concerning the sinner, but now it is thus through the Apostle, Rom. 12[:5]: “We … are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” But from this body through sin we are divided, Isai. 59[:2]: “Your iniquities have divided between you and your God.” Therefore he who sins is out of doors from every merit which is achieved through this body and is thrown into the fire, John 15[:6]: “If any one abide not in me, he shall be cast forth as a branch, and shall wither, and they shall gather him up, and cast him into the fire, and he burn.” Here what he says, “He shall be cast forth,” for it is concerning the evil one just as concerning salt which as long as it has its savor is held inside, however when it decays and passes away it is thrown out, Matt. 5[:13]: “It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men.” But although the sinner is outside the Church through demerit, when the door of the Church is always open if man lives, Apo. 3[:8]: “Behold, I have given before you a door opened, which no man can shut.” Because the sinner can enter if he repents, Gen. 24[:31]: “Come in, you blessed of the Lord: why stand you without?” As if he says, just as the Church receives robbers fleeing to it, nor does it throw them out, so God does not throw out the penitent, John 6[:37]: “Him that comes to me, I will not cast out.”