

December 22nd

The O Antiphons



O King of the Nations, and the desire thereof, the capstone who makes of two things one: come and save man whom Thou formed out of the mire!

Ant.
2. D

O Rex génti-um, * et de-siderátus c-árum, lapis-
que angu-lá-ris, qui fácis útraque únun: véni, et sálva
hóminem, quem de límo formá-sti. E u o u a c.

REX GENTIUM means “King of the Gentiles” (the word “Gentiles” means all those people in the world who were not Jewish). At the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel told Mary of Jesus that *“the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David and He shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end”* (Lk. 1:32-33). But St. Paul points out the prophecy of Isaias: *“There shall be a root of Jesse; and he that shall rise up to rule the Gentiles, in him the Gentiles shall hope”* (Rom. 15:12). Jesus is to be, not only King of the Jews, but King of the World—He is Christ the King, *“That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth”* (Php. 2:10). Jesus wants to conquer the whole world: *“Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”* (Mt. 28:19). When we conquer a country, it is usually one part at a time, until all the country has been conquered. Likewise, Jesus conquers one soul at a time. Has Jesus conquered my soul? Does Jesus reign in my heart? Do I obey my King and keep His Commandments? Or does the prince of this world, the devil, rule my mind and my heart? Does the world with its pleasures, fashions, entertainment, games and toys rule my heart. Jesus said: *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Lk. 12:34). Let Jesus be our heart’s King and treasure!