Advent Reflection on the O Antiphons #6
O Rex Gentium O King of the Nations

Latin: *O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum,*
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum:
veni, et salva hominem,
quem de limo formasti.

English: *O King of the nations, and their desire,*
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

- "For a child has been born for us, a son given us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." *Isaiah 9:6*
- "He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." *Isaiah 2:4*
- "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. *Isaiah 64:8*

The Universality of the kingship of Jesus is proclaimed as the source and foundation of true unity. He is the Savior, the one for whom the people clamor (The cry, “Hosanna”, on Palm Sunday, and used every Mass means “please save us”. The antiphon reminds us that we are all made of clay / the dust. So this antiphon is recognizing our need to be re-united because we all have the same origin – God’s creative purpose. The Isaiah texts invoke his titles and his Authority, he is the final arbiter and judge calling us back into the peace of creation, God’s uniting peace.

Thoughts to ponder as we prepare for Christmas:

Do we get stuck in an exclusivist understanding of our faith? How open are we to others, especially those who are different from us? Do we show people the respect they deserve because they are God’s creation or do we impose our own standards upon them? How do we really work for peace? How much are we prepared to be truly challenged by the gospel message of Christ the one who gives us wonderful counsel? Do we allow God to mold us each day into a better image of himself after we have despoiled it by our poor choices and inappropriate actions, our lack of peaceful intent, and our concern to bend everyone to our own point of view/way of life?