



Living in a Time of Major Crises and the Impact It Could Have on Pro-Life Issues

1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

The verses of 1 John 2:18-21 say: "Children, it is the last hour." Let's look at: What is the "last hour"? When will it finally happen? Or has it happened already?

For two millennia, people have been looking for the Second Coming of Christ, expecting it to happen soon, wishing it would happen very soon to rescue our world from evil-doings.

It seems like now would be a good time for it, right? In today's world, we're seeing a lot of bad news and the rampant immorality that's been occurring everywhere. And it's only been getting worse. Where is Jesus? When is that "last hour"?

For the past 40 years or so, our world has been deteriorating. There was a time when we could leave home without locking our doors. Now we not only have to lock up everything, we don't even feel safe walking outside the house. Crime has increased; respect for human life has decreased. Our incomes don't buy as much, and more people are unemployed. Fewer families stay together, fewer mothers stay home to raise their children (mainly because of the bad economic times we've been living in), and fewer fathers take their kids to church. Fewer men become priests. Terrorists could attack again at any moment. And our planet is getting too warm — let's not forget about the life-destroying problems of pollution.

Where is Jesus? When is that "last hour"? When is he going to rescue us from all of this?



Let's look at the "last hour" in terms of history. History repeats itself; an analysis of historical trends reveals cycles of alternating renewal and deterioration. We are, in fact, at the same part of the cycle as the Great Depression and World War II was. It's likely, in this part of the cycle that we're now in, that things will get worse in the next few years, but eventually this will lead to a new renewal period.

As I've studied this phenomenon of historical cycles while praying about it, I've gained confidence in the belief that God will once again make good come from bad. For example, I believe that we will see an increase of vocations, because world-wide crises will produce heroes, and more young men will become interested, therefore, in the heroic side of the priesthood. (One thing leads to another.)

I also believe that we will see an increase in respect for the life of unborn babies because, by necessity, with our world becoming such a dangerous place, our society is becoming much more protective of children.

Abortions won't be stopped by legislation; abortions will be stopped by an increase in understanding the humanness of the fetus and the feeling that we are all valued, all to be protected (and by "all" I mean in the parents of unwanted pregnancies as well as the children of those pregnancies).

Laws that make abortions easier will backfire in the not-too-distant future (my prediction is based on historical trends), because they will trigger a larger response from more people who want to protect life more than they had in recent history.

Remember, if we just look at the bad that's happening, we easily lose hope. We naturally want Jesus to hurry up and bring us total victory over evil by destroying all evil-doers and rapturing us from this terrible world.

Instead, we should look for Jesus in what he is doing now and expect him to bring his victory to earth by making good come from bad. The "last hour" that scriptures speaks of is the era of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to change the world. Instead of relying on the Second Coming of Christ to rescue us from everything, we are empowered to change the world and overcome evil.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18 draws us back to the first hour: "In the beginning was the Word." Jesus is the first and the last Word. Whenever we fear the future, let us ask: "Is Jesus truly the first and last Word in my life? What will I do to let the Holy Spirit transform the world through me?"

What can *you* do to transform the world?

Join Families of Aborted Children Praying Together (FACPT) for an end to abortion and the rescuing of unborn babies in current danger.

The FACPT ministry has an online Prayer Chapel where we recognize that the aborted children in our families are part of the Communion of Saints. You can pray with them just as you would with canonized Saints, for they hold a special place in our Divine Father's loving heart. Consider them to be patron saints for preventing more abortions.

If you've had an abortion, your little saint has forgiven you, cares about you, and wants to pray with you.

To become a member of FACPT, you will anonymously provide the name and gender of your child

(or any aborted children in your family), and they will be given a place of honor in the online Prayer Chapel.

Members make a commitment to pray with their little saints for the rescuing of today's children who are in danger of being aborted, for their parents, and for the compassionate spreading of the truth about the value of all life from conception to natural death. It's not difficult – simply pray as you normally would and ask Jesus to unite your prayers to those of your little saint.

If you have given a name to your child, let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal its gender. Trust the feeling you get about it, and choose a name.

**To visit the Prayer Chapel
or to join FACPT, go to
www.wordbytes.org/help_protect_life**

Help Protect Life ... all life: Visit this website for up-to-date, important downloads from the U.S. Bishops and for links to action sites. It includes an easy look-up of your U.S. Representative and an online form to send a quick message stating how you want to be represented on issues of life and today's major crises.

With an informed decision and a well-formed conscience, you are called and empowered by Christ to get involved and make a difference!

Your church's Pro-Life info or meeting schedule or special event goes here...