



Centre for Faith
& Public Issues



Pope Francis and Let's Dream 2

- *Clive Pearson*

This work is divided into 3 parts. The first part is called A Time to See. Francis notes that many of the world's problems - including the virus - can seem so large, so complicated. They leave us paralysed - or as one psychologist (Robert Jay Lifton) has described it in terms of psychic numbing. The Pope invites us to respond in two ways.

The first is by inviting us to see 'faces', especially the faces of those who suffer or who have given of themselves. The second way is to look to the margins for so often it is at the margins where suffering and vulnerability, exclusion and misery most commonly happens. Citing Paul, Francis nevertheless noted that where sin is Grace most abounds - and so notes the signs of self-giving, solidarity and mercy. The Pope invites us to go to 'the edges of existence' because things can be seen more clearly from the periphery.

The comparison is made with indifference and the emphasis on self-protection. The Pope is particularly appreciative of those - who did not neglect a concern for safety - but nevertheless gave off themselves for the sake of others. Compared with that emphasis on compliance Francis writes of those whose lives have borne witness to how it is better to live a shorter life in the service of others rather than a life spent resisting that call.
