

Clergy must lead on climate

I loved the Rev. Dennis Hamm's article on the pope, climate and moral action ("[Understanding Pope Francis on climate change](#)," June 24). I especially appreciated his statement, "Our American language about 'the wall of separation between church and state' refers to a one-way wall, preventing the state from establishing or interfering in the free exercise of religion, but not preventing people of faith from participating in the processes of government."

I spent years studying in seminary to become a rabbi. Lack of time meant I ignored contemporary issues. I assumed that important officials and journalists would monitor global issues, keep things running and raise an alarm if needed. But, no. When I graduated, I realized the climate was in crisis and it's up to us little people to preserve the climate, our civilization and the world. Clergy and religious laity must demonstrate that we practice what we preach. We care about others, attend to contemporary issues, seek justice for all, and speak respectfully to everyone.

Not only may the pope advise us on civics, I would add that proper religious education teaches all adherents to fix the world by patiently inspiring others to action and by using peaceful, respectful methods. That's why I volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby.

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[LINK](#)