

Francis urges us to be responsible for climate

Posted Oct. 6, 2015 at 2:01 AM

Your beautiful editorial Sept. 29 editorial ("Francis in America") emphasized Pope Francis' humility and gentleness as he urged us to preserve life — the young, elderly, all species on Earth, even convicted killers.

I, a rabbi, feel lucky that I could go to Washington to witness Francis' impact, be there to hear his speech to Congress, listen to him conduct Mass (broadcast live to crowds near the Washington Memorial), and participate in Yom Kippur services at the Lincoln Memorial (the same day Francis led Mass in Washington).

It was an amazing Yom Kippur: starting and ending with traditional Jewish services featuring empowering environmental homilies, with Francis' Mass sandwiched in the middle. Francis preached don't "settle for what comes easy," keep your heart from "growing numb, from being anesthetized" to world problems because these problems seem huge or "the struggles of everyday life" take your attention. "Keep moving forward," he said.

Francis taught that we honor God when we lead "a meaningful life, a joyful life," which only happens when we "regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a responsibility for others and for the world."

Despite climate change's enormity, rejoice that you live in a democracy and collective willpower will prevail. Rejoice that together we can protect life by humbly, gently and persistently calling for congressional climate action.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Brookline

The writer is a volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby.

[LINK](#)