

Gosar's decision shows intolerance

Re: the Sept. 18 article "Ariz. Rep. Gosar to skip pope's speech in protest."

I was saddened by Rep. Gosar's plan to boycott Pope Francis' speech because it might deal with climate change instead of religious tolerance, radical Islam and the sanctity of life.

I'm a rabbi who feels lucky to be able to go to Washington, spend several hours waiting at a good spot to hear Francis' speech, and witness him address the crowd. As a Bible teacher, I know Genesis doesn't say that humans can't cause climate change.

The Pentateuch doesn't require the faithful chastise other nations for their theology or practices. Rather, we're required to refrain from doing what they do, and instead do what God wants. The prophet Micah explained: "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Act justly includes caring for people and animals suffering floods, extreme heat or fire. Walking humbly means accepting that we can learn from all people. It's not humble to proclaim climate science false, nor to intolerantly boycott the pope.

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