

Pope Francis answers to a higher calling

Posted: Monday, September 28, 2015 5:14 pm

By Our Readers

Re “The pope and the president” (Editorial, Sept. 23:)
I loved The Star’s editorial on the president having to work within political constraints, Congress needing to work within the election cycle and the schedule of big votes. But Pope Francis isn’t constrained by such artificial restrictions. The pope answers to a higher authority; he’s compelled to talk about big issues, especially long-term moral problems, like climate change, that we’re ignoring to the detriment of the next generations.

I, a rabbi, felt lucky to be able to go to Washington and stand on the mall, listen to his beautifully constructed, elegant speech to Congress and see him go out on the Capitol’s veranda and address the crowd.

I have hope that Francis will make a difference, and that Congress will enact climate legislation within this election cycle. After the speech, a Fox News commentator said caring for the poor, the environment and refugees — these issues shouldn’t be politically fraught, Congress should want to do it and anyone who objects is on the wrong side of morality, and the wrong side of Jesus. It reminded me of a comment by Nicholas Stern, London School of Economics professor, who wrote: climate change is the greatest market failure the world has ever seen, fixing it is a pro-market position, anyone opposing carbon pricing is anti-market. Why would anyone in Congress want to be on the wrong side of morality and the wrong side of capitalist market economics?

I have hope Francis will make a difference because as he

spoke, my eyes kept welling up with tears. At those moments, I watched as House Speaker John Boehner wiped his eyes. I rarely agree with Mr. Boehner, but today his apolitical heart was speaking and it said the same thing as my heart.

*Rabbi Judy Weiss
Brookline, Mass.*

[LINK](#)