



Movie recounts heroic act of conscience by a “Righteous Among the Nations”

LEXINGTON. A special showing of “Disobedience,” a movie about a Portuguese diplomat who helped some 30,000 Jews and other “undesirables” escape from France to Portugal, during World War II, will be

escape to Lisbon.

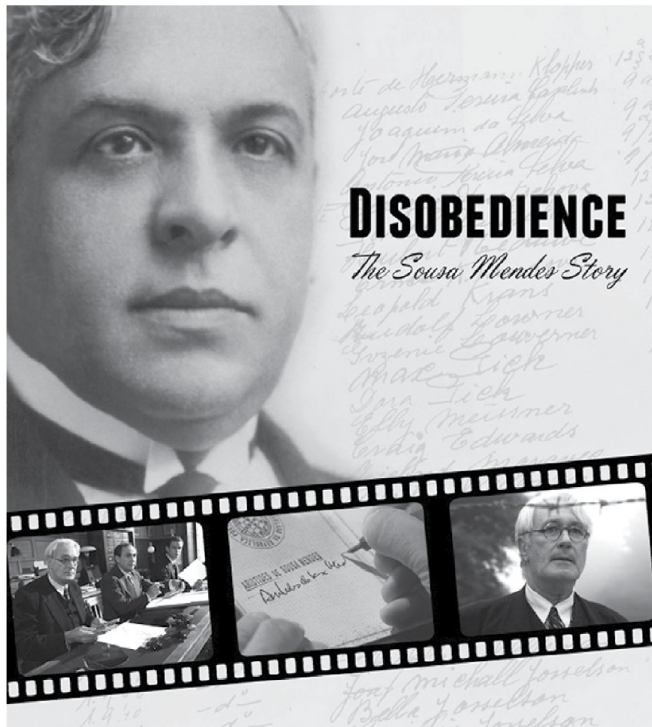
According to the Sousa Mendes Foundation website, “For his act of defiance Sousa Mendes was severely punished by [Portuguese Prime Minister]Salazar, stripped

Franciscan habit for lack of appropriate clothes of his own. Of following his conscience, he said, “I could not have acted otherwise, and I therefore accept all that has befallen me with love.”

In 1966, he was honored by Israel as one of the “Righteous Among the Nations,” a list of people who risked their lives or their liberty and position to help Jews during the Holocaust

April 24, 2017, marks the observance of “Yom Hashoah,” Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The showing is sponsored by Dr. Michael and Gloria Ric and the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. ■



held at the Kentucky Theater, April 24, at 7:30 p.m.

“Disobedience,” directed by Joel Santoni, tells the story of Aristedes de Sousa Mendes, a devout Roman Catholic diplomatic consul of neutral Portugal. Stationed in Bordeaux, France, in June, 1940, and in defiance of a directive of the unofficially pro-Nazi Portuguese regime, Sousa Mendes and three other consular officials issued some 30,000 travel visas over a period of a few days, allowing Jews, Russians, and other “stateless” persons to

of his diplomatic position and forbidden from earning a living. He had fifteen children, who were themselves blacklisted and prevented from attending university or finding meaningful work. In this way what was once an illustrious and well-respected family—one of the great families of Portugal—was crushed and destroyed. The family’s ancestral home, known as ‘Casa do Passal,’ was repossessed by the bank and eventually sold to cover debts.”

He died in abject poverty in 1954 in a Franciscan hospital. He was buried in a

The Garden

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However, when we consider the fullness of Scripture, we learn that unless we exercise our dominion over the created order in the same way as God, that is, mercifully so that there might be life and life to the full, we are likewise sealing our own fate. Pope Francis has noted well that, “We are a part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.” Consequently, “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social [or economic, political, technological for that matter], but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”

In other words, we are not independent of the created order. Our impact on the created order is very real and consequential. Therefore, we need an approach to life that seeks both to declare that human life on Earth is good and that all life on Earth is good, accepting the responsibility that comes with such power for dominion.

The two roads, first identified by Moses and then referenced later by Jesus, remain for us still. One leads to life and one leads to death. However, now more than ever, life refers to all life on Earth and death may very well mean the death of all life on Earth. During this Lenten Season then let us examine our own habits, attitudes, and behaviors as they regard the care of creation and let us once again choose life! ■

Correction

In the caption for the “Life in the Diocese” photograph of the rally for migrants and immigrants in Frankfort (CR, February 26, 2017), the name of Joshua Van Cleef, parish life director of Holy Cross Parish, Jackson, was inadvertently omitted. Cross Roads regrets the error and is happy to set the record straight.

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