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Jesus, played by Ricardo Mendoza, 17, gets nailed to the cross Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.



Jesus, played by Ricardo Mendoza, 17, awaits his fate on the cross on Good Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.

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again and again. Mendoza, however, was willing to endure whatever pain because it was minimal compared to what Jesus actually went through.

"On my way up, I just prayed to God to ask him to give me strength," he said. "This isn't even as close to what Jesus went through. I just prayed and asked him

to not let me fall."

Mendoza said he found out the youth congregations leaders were considering him for the role of Jesus in the production, but he didn't find out for sure he would until Ash Wednesday. In the 40 days since then, he has studied his Bible, meditated and looked to God for guidance on how to portray the mentally and physically grueling role.

Mendoza said, since he



A Roman soldier overlooks the crucifixion of Jesus and two thieves Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.

knew it was going to be demanding on his body carrying the heavy cross up to the top of the Butte, he practiced by carrying heavy materials to build stamina.

It was not the first year Mendoza has participated in the Stations of the Cross. He has played a Roman soldier, a good guy and a bad guy in the past. This was the first time he played the lead, however, and he said the experience

has been more than he could imagine.

"It's been really rewarding doing this," he said.

Adriana Armenta, 18, said her journey playing Mary may not have required as much physical and mental preparation as the role of Jesus, but she still took it very seriously.

"We practiced all the time," she said. "I meditated on my role. I read the Bible. Every day, we would practice for an hour



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS
Women approach Jesus, played by Ricardo Mendoza, praying for him, as he makes his way up to be crucified Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.



Mary, played by Adriana Armenta, wipes blood from her son, Jesus's face, played by Ricardo Mendoza, Friday during the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Parish's production of Stations of the Cross.

or so."

This was the second year Armenta played Jesus' mother, but she said it has been a spiritual journey for her during both years and that the experience never gets old.

"It is unexplainable to do something like this," she said. "I recommend that other people come out and do this ... It was hard, but I thank the Lord for the opportunity."

Following telling the

rest of the story of how Jesus rose again from the dead on the third day, Rev. Daniel told people attending the ceremony they should not forget what they felt after witnessing such an event.

"When we leave this Butte, let's leave in silence and meditation," he said. "Let this day not end with this event. Jesus died on the cross for you and me ... He gave himself on this cross for us."

CAMERAS:
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to record all traffic stops and other instances at the discretion of the officer. Even as he tries to craft the policy, however, he is monitoring proposed state legislation that could require him to change it.

He said he spoke with a representative from the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police about House Bill 2571, which would not require departments to purchase and use cameras — that would be difficult for small agencies — but it would set rules for the departments that do use them.

"There's a House bill being discussed right now, House Bill 2571, that, from what I'm hearing, has a strong chance of being passed this session," he said. "The word I got from OACP is that more than likely a bill will be passed this session regarding body-worn cameras, and hopefully it will be 2571 — however they decide to hash it

out — versus an unfunded mandate of everybody will wear them."

Edmiston said, although requiring all officers to use cameras would be more detrimental to law enforcement agencies as a whole, he is concerned if the Legislature passes strict rules for departments that use them, some agencies may choose not to use the technology.

"None of us wants to see an unfunded mandate: Thou shalt wear body cameras, and thou shalt do this," he said. "I think what the Legislature is looking at is (an) unfunded mandate versus strict rules for those who choose to use cameras. My concern with this is it could lead people to not want to deal with cameras because there's these stringent rules. Hopefully, they craft it in such a way that it makes sense."

Edmiston said he is particularly concerned with a proposed requirement that officers wearing cameras must continuously record

from the time they develop reasonable suspicion a crime or violation has occurred until completing their law enforcement action.

"If we go out on a barking dog complaint, I don't think it's reasonable that an officer should have to turn that on," he said. "That's where I'm very apprehensive about what they're talking about, because they're talking about reasonable suspicion, even for a violation."

Edmiston said he would prefer legislators focus on maintaining officer discretion about when to use the cameras, however, rather than other proposed regulations, such as exempting the video from public records requests.

He said he believes some agencies are hesitant to use cameras because they believe cases without video evidence of a crime will be more difficult to prosecute.

"I think some of the apprehension that people have expressed about not

going to (camera use) is this thought that, 'Well, if you didn't record it, then it didn't happen and, therefore, the case is tossed out' — those types of things," he said. "We still take an oath to do this job, and we're sworn to tell the truth, and we're sworn to present the facts as we know them. There's a little bit of friction with, 'Well, how come you didn't record it?' You really have to have strong policies in place, trust from the community that we're going to do the right thing and then a good working relationship with the district attorney's office."

Despite concerns with

the potential legislation under consideration, Edmiston said he believes the cameras will ensure officer professionalism and also hold accountable the people with whom the officers interact.

"I think this is where

the train is going," he said. "I'm totally fine with us being on board on the front end. We're going to have some bumps and bruises as we refine this, but I'm very apprehensive of how this House bill could turn out."

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