



**April 20, 2026**

## **Being Brave**

I recently saw the movie, “Project Hail Mary.” My favorite part, the part that sticks with me the most, was when Ryland Grace, a 7th grade science teacher, says, “No, I can’t,” refusing to go on the mission to save the galaxy.

But the one in charge had other plans for him.

I know the feeling of wanting to say, “No, I can’t.” Big and little things. I can’t finish this project, I can’t call my Congressman or Senator, I can’t volunteer any more time, I can’t handle any more bad news. Ryland Grace ran away. Sometimes I want to run away, too.

But I have a feeling the one in charge of my life has other plans.

Grace’s mission was to save the galaxy. Our mission is to love God, self and others, all at once. We are told to help those on the margins. Impossible tasks, all of them.

We can’t do it alone, and neither could Ryland Grace. He had mission control, we have Divine Love and a great cloud of witnesses. We have friends, family and sometimes a very unlikely character shows up for us, as it did for Grace. I am trying to let love be an active word in my unlikely friendships. So, I go out, and see what happens.

I don’t want to tell you too much about the movie, so I’ll be as vague as I can. Bravery and sacrifice are featured. Out in space, here on earth.

“Project Hail Mary,” inspired me. I loved that it wasn’t about competition, winning, or being better than. It was about trying to save something worth saving, doing something really hard and not doing it alone. Let’s help each other to do that.

And with God’s grace, I pray to be brave and make crazy sacrifices. I won’t feel equipped, but that’s where faith and trust come in. Let’s work together on things big and small.

And on another note, a few words about the upcoming Visio Divina:

Try to breathe slowly as you look at a piece of art,  
settle in for a few minutes if you can.

Bring your whole self to the art.

As you gaze at the works, ask the art questions.

Remember the bravery of the artists!

~Written by Barb Perry

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