

THE HAIL MARY

Discussion Questions

1. The synopsis states that angry loner Jake is led to atonement by being "conned" into helping the Catholic School,. What does the film suggest about Jake's path to **redemption**? How do you relate to Jake's spiritual journey?
2. Sister Kathy is the figure who draws Jake into helping the school, while also helping his soul. How do you view her methods of ministry, and does the "con" undermine or highlight her dedication to helping those in need? If the school wasn't in such dire circumstances, do you think she would have pushed as hard to have Jake come in to help?
3. How might the seemingly secular activity of **creating a football team** serve as a mechanism for spiritual healing? How did you see **healing** happen in the film?
4. What role does **community involvement**, particularly in a faith-based environment like a Catholic school, play in overcoming anger and isolation?
5. *The Hail Mary* is categorized as both Comedy and Drama,. How does the inclusion of comedy help soften or make accessible the serious themes of anger, guilt, and spiritual isolation?
6. Compare and contrast the persistent faith of Sister Kathy and hardened skepticism of Jake? What do you think shaped them in their differences? How are they the same?
7. Daniel Roebuck not only stars as Jake Bauer but also serves as the film's **writer and director**. How might having the writer/director play the main character influence the portrayal of the loner's internal struggle and ultimate spiritual breakthrough? Are there elements of the film that you would have written differently if given the pen?
8. The film features several religious characters, including Sister Kathy, Father Michael Anthony (Timothy E. Goodwin), and Father Anthony Michael (Bret Anthony). How might the interactions between these clergy figures reflect real-world differences in approach to ministry and evangelization within a parish setting? Were the clergy characters realistically portrayed? Are there any examples we can take from the film in our parish or school lives?
9. The title, *The Hail Mary*, evokes both a specific Catholic prayer and a last-ditch, risky football play. How does the movie likely use this dual meaning to symbolize the desperate nature of the protagonist's need for salvation or the high-risk ministry approach taken by Sister Kathy? If you were tasked with naming the movie, what name would you have chosen?
10. The central vehicle for redemption is the **creation of a football team** for the school. In what ways does participation in a disciplined, team-oriented activity serve as a metaphor for spiritual discipline and learning to rely on others within a faith community? How have you used spiritual discipline in your own prayer life?