

Fr. Jean-Luc Eckert has lived in the Assumptionist community in Jerusalem for many years. There he has been welcoming the many pilgrims who arrive to recall Peter's denial and repentance at this site considered by some experts to be the former site of the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest at the time of Jesus. He has also had numerous encounters with various Christian communities in Israel and Palestine and has tasted first-hand the warm welcome of the inhabitants of this land, both suffering and luminous. Here he shared with us some of his discoveries.

Working at the shrine of St. Peter-in-Gallicantu ion Jerusalem affords one the opportunity for rich encounters. Christian memory has attached to this site one of the most somber moments in Church history: Jesus' betrayal by one in whom he placed total trust, Peter, his closest friend. Here peter experienced his greatest failure and his deepest fragility. But here as well, the Apostle entered in to the merciful plan of God, one of pardon and salvation, one whereby he wishes to reconcile us, fragile and fearful men, capable of great good or great evil. A continual influx of pilgrims and visitors daily invades our property from early morning to the lingering moments of daylight. Each day more than a thousand people converge on this site to walk in the footsteps of Peter in order to recognize that his experience is theirs as well.







