



ST. PETER IN GALLICANTU

Few structures combine the ancient with the new as successfully as the dazzling Church of St. Peter on the eastern slopes of Mount Zion. The church takes its name from the Latin word "Gallicantu," meaning cock's crow and was erected in 1931 in commemoration of Peter's triple rejection of Jesus..." before the cock crows twice" (Mark 14:30). The church is an amazing blend of contemporary lines, primitive art, and antiquity. Brilliantly fused together to create a superbly-designed masterpiece, this is far more than an ordinary house of worship.

Beneath the church are a series of carved-out chambers from the Second Temple period. Since Catholic tradition positions the palace of Caiaphas on this very site, it logically follows that Jesus may have been imprisoned in one of these very same underground crypts.

A Byzantine shrine dedicated to Peter's repentance was erected on this spot in the middle of the fifth century, but later destroyed by Moslem invaders. The chapel was rebuilt by the Crusaders and given a new name, St. Peter's in Gallicantu. Today a golden rooster protrudes prominently from the sanctuary roof.

