

### **The Fourth Station: Peter Denies Jesus**

After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, "This man was with him too." But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him!" A little while later, someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too." But Peter said, "Man, I'm not!" An hour or so later, someone else insisted, "This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too." Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord's words: "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably. (Luke 22:54-62)

Today, as we listen to the Passion narrative, we meet many people who represent our own social indifference, but none more so than Peter. How often do we look on at the injustice inflicted on other people "from a [safe] distance"? How often do we say to victims "I do not know [you]" when showing solidarity might prove difficult or dangerous? How often do we go out and weep bitterly because social action is too costly for us?

Unlike Peter, many Indigenous people willingly put themselves at risk to defend their land and homes from damaging extraction and energy projects.

Many Indigenous leaders, such as in the region of Guapinol in Honduras, face prison, intimidation, and even death for taking a stand.

**Let us pray** for all those who have the courage to Create Hope in their communities by standing for the land and upholding the dignity of their people through actions of solidarity. Let us pray for the conversion of our elected officials who, unfortunately, continue to put the rights and preferences of settler peoples first. Let us call to mind the spirits of the 1,700 land and human rights defenders who have been killed in the past 10 years.