



## The Monastic Tradition of Education

with Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 5: Images from San Marco Monastery, Florence

### Outline:



*The Annunciation, Fra Angelico, 1436-1437*

### Images from San Marco Monastery, Florence

- The surroundings were orienting all of life as consecrated to God.
- There is a cloister in the middle. The cathedral area is in the front. There is a refectory and chapter house. The countryside surrounding is very beautiful.
- Schools could look to this as a model.
  - Classical education is like a garden.
  - Classical education is like a museum with many rooms.
- The whole of monastery is suggesting a concentrated life and suggesting ways in which we develop and mature.
  - Classical education is like a table where we feast together.
- Fra Angelico painted the cells of every monk (Florence).
  - What would happen if you gazed at one scene all of your life?
  - He painted the scene of The Last Supper as though it was happening at the monastery.
- The books created in the monasteries were made to last.

What can you do to the surroundings of your school or homeschool that might be informed by the San Marco Monastery?

- Think about the visual field and the sonic field.
- How would we embody truth, goodness, and beauty?
- How could you simplify? How could you beautify?