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REFLECTION

Bukidnon is a place known for its beautiful forests and rich farmlands. But today, it faces problems like deforestation and climate change. These issues bring more floods, landslides, and less food production from farms. To solve these problems, the local government started a campaign encouraging people to plant trees. As a resident of Bukidnon, I believe I have a moral responsibility to help. This reflection will explain how planting trees connects with the natural law ethics of St. Thomas Aquinas and Aristotle's idea of natural purpose.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed in natural law, which teaches us to live good lives by doing what benefits the community. One of the most important principles of natural law is to do things that help others. Planting trees helps not only myself but also my community. Trees clean the air, help prevent floods by absorbing rainwater, and provide homes for animals. By planting trees, I am doing something that is good for everyone, which follows Aquinas’ teaching of promoting the common good.

One of the basic ideas in Aquinas’ natural law is self-preservation. This means that we should protect ourselves and our environment. Trees are important for this because they help keep the air clean, give us shade, and help control the climate. Without enough trees, our environment becomes unhealthy, which makes it harder for people to live. By planting trees, I am protecting my surroundings and following the natural law of self-preservation. Aquinas also believed that we have a duty to care for other people and live in peace with them. Deforestation affects everyone, especially future generations. If we don’t take care of our environment, people will suffer from more floods, landslides, and poor farming. By joining the reforestation campaign, I can help make sure the environment is better for future generations. This is another way of following Aquinas’ belief in helping others and promoting the common good.

Aristotle, a philosopher, also had important ideas about nature. He believed that everything in nature has a purpose. For trees, their purpose is to provide oxygen, keep the soil healthy, and help with climate balance. If we cut down trees, we disrupt this natural order, leading to problems like climate change. Planting trees helps restore balance to nature and respects the purpose that trees have. According to Aristotle, the good of something is tied to its natural purpose. The proper good of a tree is to grow, produce oxygen, and help maintain the health of the environment. When I plant a tree, I am helping it fulfill its natural purpose. This, in turn, helps keep nature in balance. Planting trees is not only about solving problems today but also about protecting nature for future generations. By doing this, I am following Aristotle’s teaching about living in harmony with nature.

Planting trees also contributes to the common good, which means helping the entire community. Trees provide benefits that everyone can enjoy. They improve air quality, help manage water, and support animals. In Bukidnon, where deforestation has caused environmental problems, planting trees is an important step toward protecting both the land and the people. Aquinas taught that living in harmony with others is part of natural law. By planting trees, I am helping my community and making sure future generations have a healthy environment to live in. The effects of climate change and deforestation don’t only affect us today—they will also affect future generations. In Bukidnon, the land has already been damaged by deforestation, which makes it harder for people to farm and live safely. If nothing is done, these problems will continue to get worse, making life harder for those who come after us. Planting trees can help fix this by stabilizing the soil, reducing floods, and improving farming. This is important for making sure future generations have a better, safer environment to live in.

To help with reforestation, there are several things I can do. I can join local tree-planting events organized by the government or community. These events bring people together to plant trees and make a difference. I can also plant trees on my own land, or in areas that need reforestation. Even planting a few trees can make a big impact over time. Finally, I can support environmental groups by donating, volunteering, or spreading awareness about the importance of trees. These actions show my responsibility to take care of the environment and my community.

In conclusion, planting trees is not just an environmental action—it is also a moral responsibility. St. Thomas Aquinas' natural law teaches us to care for others and the environment, while Aristotle’s philosophy reminds us that everything in nature has a purpose. By planting trees, I contribute to the common good, protect the environment for future generations, and fulfill the natural purposes of trees. Through simple actions like joining reforestation activities and planting trees, I can make a meaningful difference for Bukidnon and help build a better future.