UBUNTU: I am because we are.

A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs to a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed. **Desmond Tutu**

The story of Ubuntu – "An anthropologist studying the habits and customs of an African tribe found himself surrounded by children most days. So, he decided to play a little game with them. He managed to get candy from the nearest town and put it all in a decorated basket at the foot of a tree. Then he called the children and suggested they play the game. When the anthropologist said, "Now," the children had to run to the tree, and the first one to get there could have all the candy to themselves.

So, the children all lined up, waiting for the signal. When the anthropologist said "now," all the children took each other by the hand and ran together towards the tree. They all arrived simultaneously, divided up the candy, sat down, and began to munch away happily.

The anthropologist went over to them and asked why they had all run together when any one of them could have had the candy to themselves. The children responded, "Ubuntu. How could any one of us be happy if all the others were sad?"

Ubuntu is a philosophy of some African tribes that can be summed up as "I am what I am because of who we all are."

In 2008, Bishop Desmond Tutu gave this explanation of "ubuntu" ….." One of the sayings in our country is "Ubuntu," the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly to the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks to our interconnection. You can't be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality – Ubuntu – you are known for your generosity. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas we are connected, and what we do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity."

Wasn't that why the National Black Sisters' Conference was formed in 1968? We were not an isolated group of Black Catholic consecrated religious women isolated from one another, but rather a collective body living in various communities – our very "race" pulled us together. It still does.

NBSC is undergoing a refresh in many ways, but several areas are evident to each of us. First, the communication you have been reading in the NBSC Weekly Update. It's a new look. This newsletter has another title and will not replace the *NBSC Weekly Update.* It will be shared with a growing audience interested in knowing who the National Black Sisters' Conference is, what it does, and how they can support our efforts and join. The *NBSC Ubuntu*

newsletter is meant for all of us to join hands, run to the tree together and savor our lives and spirituality. "I am who I am because of who we all are." The *NBSC Ubuntu* newsletter will be presented periodically, and we hope that you enjoy it, savor it, and feel free to share it. In emailing the newsletter and the *NBSC Weekly Update*, NBSC will utilize two different email services rather than the AOL email; one is called Brevo, and the other is called GetResponse. An email will be sent to you with either the *NBSC Weekly Update* attached, or the message embedded in the email, which you can view online, as this one does. Both services will allow you to remove yourself from the email list if you wish and change your email address if you need to change your email. You can do it, so calls to the national office are only necessary if you experience a serious problem. Why is this? Most emails sent by organizations utilize services such as these. It helps organizations to manage their contact list more efficiently. When the roll-out is done, your email may be directed to spam or junk folders, so be sure to check those. The *NBSC Weekly Update* will only be sent out as a pdf attachment, so ensure that your system has a pdf reader installed, or you cannot open the *NBSC Weekly Update*.

Another refresh is the logo for the National Black Sisters' Conference. The color has not changed – it remains a black logo. The letters have not changed but have been added to, moving from the lowercase "nb" to the use of all four letters in an upper-case format, "NBSC". It aligns with what we call the organization, and the refresh will put all four letters in our mouths and ears, and we can see them as well. The use of the upper case elevates NBSC, as it deserves. Now refreshing logos are touchy because some are attached to what has been. This change was not done in isolation – don't forget Ubuntu – but instead reviewed with a group of seasoned members of the organization. We are grateful for their foresight.

As you know, the NBSC website has been dormant for some time. A refreshed website has been created with a new look, capabilities, and a new name. It will now be www.nbsc68.org rather than www.nbsc68.com, which aligns the organization with the standard of practice used by other not-for-profit organizations, whereas .com is used for commercial websites. NBSC presently owns both the .org domain and the .com domain, so if one forgets to put in .org, they will still be directed to the new website. Will the new website be able to handle online dues payments and donations? Yes, eventually, it's part of the plans as the buildout of the new website continues, but it is ready to launch. It is much easier for the national office to update the information, which will be a welcome change. As it launches, feel free to look around it and explore the rich history of the National Black Sisters' Conference.

So, the refresh is underway. It is because of who we all are. Email communications, e.g., the *NBSC Weekly Update* and the *NBSC Ubuntu* newsletter, the refreshed logo, and the new website. This communication will continue to be sent approximately three to four more times to ensure that everyone has had a chance to open it and read it – only then will it all be launched.

Ubuntu.