On this glorious day, we are here to celebrate the life of Sr. Charlotte O’Brien. We extend our sincere condolences to Cindy, Charlotte’s niece.

Charlotte loved being an Allegany Franciscan. The joy that radiated from her smile spoke volumes. Words were not necessary. All of us recognized her love of the Lord and her strong commitment as an Allegany Franciscan for over 62 years.

In reading Charlotte’s obituary, most of what was written regarding her ministry was news to me. Charlotte never pushed herself forward for recognition. If there was a need in the community, she responded.

In Jamaica, Charlotte was a teacher, Chair of the Education Department, and Principal at St. Joseph’s Teachers College in Kingston, Jamaica. She served as Local Minister and Coordinator of Mt. Alvernia Convent in Montego Bay. She also served on the Archdiocese of Kingston Board of Education. Her accomplishments in her ministry were endless.

In spreading the gospel, Charlotte was able to reach so many people. Charlotte was devoted to the total service of others. She was the conduit that the Lord used to spread His love.

The words to the song “We Are Called” expresses Charlotte’s vocation. “We are called to act with justice…we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God.” These words are the sum and substance of the life of Charlotte O’Brien.

Now there was another side to Charlotte that also spoke volumes. Charlotte was a “real” character. The richness of Charlotte’s life was expressed in the following ways:

* She had a great sense of humor.
* She loved pizza, spaghetti, chicken wings, Chinese food, Hot Pockets, and Jamaican patties.
* She only went to doctors that were near pizza places.
* She loved the Boston Red Sox and the Patriots when they were winning. You heard nothing when they were losing.
* She wore her Patriots sweatshirt and Boston Red Sox shirt when they were playing even though it was on a Sunday.
* She had a building named after her in Jamaica. Not one of us knew this. Dominic told us about the O’Brien Building. When I asked “why” she didn’t share this news…her response was… “What difference does it make?”
* Charlotte was revered by the people of Jamaica. Her presence will be felt for years because of love and dedication.
* Charlotte was a loyal friend.

Together we join our prayers in thanking God for His kindness in allowing us to share in Charlotte’s life and we thank God for the part that she played in our lives.

We celebrate her entrance in joining with the rest of her family in Heaven.

We are sure that in her joy in Heaven, she will continue to remember us as we journey back to the Lord and to our eternal home.

Some people come into our lives, and quietly go.

Others come into our lives and linger a while.

They leave their footprints on our hearts, and

we are never the same.

That was Charlotte!

Rest in peace my friend, until we meet again.

Eulogy given by Jean Hayes, OSF