Alexander Santana was born and raised in Tecolotlán, Jalisco, Mexico. He is the youngest of five siblings and is first in his family to attend and graduate from college. Alex migrated to United States at 18 and became a US citizen 19 years later.

At 22 he became a Seminarian at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He subsequently attended the Executive Business Management Program at the University of California Los Angeles, Anderson School of Business. He earned an Associate of Arts degree in Architecture from Fullerton College. After earning his degree, Alex applied that knowledge by creating and managing his own business focused on design and contracting.

Alex’s journey next lead him to ten years of service in the United States Navy. He deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006 and 2007. Upon his return home, Alex served as the California State Coordinator for the non-profit Vets Journey Home, instructing veterans at national retreats and guiding veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

After suffering a clinical death and a diagnosis of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, the Veterans Administration rated Alex 100% Disabled. As such, he was unable to restart his business, utilize his academic experience or continue pursuit of a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture.

Understanding he was at a crossroads at the mid-point of his life, he realized the necessity of a career change. Through struggles with the Veterans Administration, and their lack of support, Alex understood his personal experiences and interests aligned and chose to pursue his Bachelor’s degree in Human Services.

Through his diverse life experiences Alex realized how similar the process of being accepted into the priesthood and departing was similar to his military entrance and exit. When he joined both institutions, each rolled out the red carpet and gave him all the support he needed. However, once he left both institutions, he felt abandoned, unsupported and neglected. Despite the vast differences in both institutions, Alex had nearly identical experiences.

Alex is currently pursuing Bachelor of Sciences in Human Services at California State University Fullerton, with emphasis in Gerontology and a minor in Psychology. He lives in Fullerton with his five-year-old daughter.

Alexander Santana was born and raised in Tecolotlán, Jalisco, Mexico. He is the youngest of five siblings and is first in his family to attend and graduate from college. Alex migrated to United States at 18 and became a US citizen 19 years later. At 22, he became a Seminarian at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Additionally, he attended the Executive Business Management Program at the University of California Los Angeles, Anderson School of Business and later earned an Associate of Arts degree in Architecture from Fullerton College. He turned these skills into a business focused on design and contracting. Alex’s journey continued with 10 years of service in the United States Navy. He deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006 and 2007. Upon his return home he became an activist working with the non-profit Vet’s Journey Home. After suffering a clinical death and a diagnosis of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, the Veterans Administration rated Alex 100% Disabled. As such, he was unable to restart his business, utilize his academic experience or continue pursuit of a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture. Alex was met with hardships at the Veteran’s Administration and realized that a career change was necessary. He is currently pursuing Bachelor of Sciences in Human Services at California State University Fullerton, with emphasis in Gerontology and a minor in Psychology. Alex’s diverse life experiences have taught him the meaning of inclusion, neglect, and commitment.