



Seodello Alvero "Sam" Martinez, born in Cavite, Philippines, October 5, 1929. He passed April 15, 2019 after a life of service to his family, country, and church. Sam was a convert to the faith, converting to Catholicism before his wedding to Nellie Martinez in 1957. Sam retired from the US Navy after first serving in the Philippine Air force for three years. He then went on to be a computer specialist/programmer for San Diego City School districts and the Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego.

His service to the church was largely lived out at Saint Charles Catholic Church in Imperial Beach, where he was a parishioner for 50 years. During that time he became a master catechist, and on June 21, 1991 was ordained as the first Filipino deacon in the diocese of San Diego. While a deacon he held many leadership roles, including the spiritual director of the Filipino Cursillo Movement of San Diego, Director of Catechetical ministries at St. Charles, Religious program director for Stella Maris, Port of San Diego, as well as offering direction to various groups and ministries at St. Charles through the years.

It was through his involvement in the Stella Maris, ministering to the Dole Banana boat sailors, that I first met Dcn. Sam, as my wife was preparing for her master catechist certification when we met with him to learn more about this ministry. Little did I know then how close

our paths would come in the years that followed. I am grateful for his mentorship, and example of service to what later would become our parish as well. May perpetual light shine upon Deacon Sam.

