

SATURDAY JUNE 29, 1992

Suit alleges sexual battery by ex-altar boy coordinator

By Don Babwin
The Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE

A former coordinator of altar boy services at two Riverside churches has been sued by a boy he allegedly conspired to have sex with.

In the suit, which comes four weeks after Dennis Raymond Jost was ordered to stand trial in federal court, the youth alleges Jost did more than conspire to have sex with him.

Jost, 50, of Riverside, "did commit on at least four occasions physical and sexual batteries upon" him between April and August of 1990, according to the suit. Further, the suit alleges Jost threatened to kill the boy if he told anyone about the "physical and sexual batteries," and that he put an unspecified "dangerous drug" in the boy's "food or drink."

The suit also alleges false imprisonment, claiming Jost forced the boy "to stay, or go somewhere,

against his will."

The suit does not say whether the Riverside County youth was an altar boy, but one of the incidents allegedly took place at Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Riverside.

Also named in the suit are the Catholic Church's Diocese of San Bernardino, Queen of Angels church and Bernard Waltos, former pastor of the church. The other Riverside church where Jost worked as a volunteer, St. Thomas, was not named in the suit.

According to the suit, those named "had actual or constructive knowledge" of Jost's "criminal record involving sexual assaults against minor boys."

The Rev. Ron Rocky, pastor of Queen of Angels, said he did not know about the lawsuit. He said Waltos, his predecessor, has been transferred out of Southern California.

Diocese officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

But in May, Rev. Donald Webber, moderator of the curiae for the diocese in San Bernardino, said of the criminal case: "We were notified last August by authorities that an allegation had been made and that they were investigating." He said Jost was suspended immediately.

Jost, who has pleaded not guilty in the criminal case, would not comment when he was reached at home yesterday afternoon.

Douglas E. Weathers, the attorney representing the boy in the lawsuit, would not discuss whether Jost has any record or elaborate on the allegations listed in the lawsuit.

Weathers said the criminal case, which was to go to trial July 7, has been continued until October.

Jost was arrested May 14 on a federal indictment that alleges Jost, between July 14, 1990, and Aug. 5, 1990, transported the boy to Tucson, Ariz., and Albuquerque, N.M., according to an assistant U.S. attorney.