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Sex-conspiracy trial set for ex-church volunteer

*The Press-Enterprise***LOS ANGELES**

A former coordinator of altar boy services at two Riverside churches was ordered to stand trial yesterday on a federal charge of conspiring to have sex with a young boy.

Dennis Raymond Jost, 50, of Riverside, appeared yesterday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles and pleaded not guilty. The case was set for trial on July 7 before Judge Robert M. Tagasugi.

Jost had earlier been ordered by a federal judge not to associate with minors, to undergo psychiatric counseling and to wear an electronic monitor that would notify authorities of his whereabouts.

Jost was arrested May 14 on a federal indictment charging him with taking a minor across state lines with the intent of engaging in sexual activity. The indictment alleges that between July 14, 1990, and Aug. 5, 1990, Jost transported a

Riverside County boy to Tucson, Ariz., and Albuquerque, N.M., said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jean Gilliland.

At the time, Jost was working as a volunteer at Queen of Angels and St. Thomas Catholic churches in Riverside, coordinating altar boy services, said the Rev. Donald Webber, moderator of the curiae for the San Bernardino Diocese of the Catholic Church.

"We were notified last August by authorities that an allegation had been made and that they were investigating," Webber said. "He was suspended immediately."

Jost's volunteer job put him in contact with dozens of young boys, but neither Webber nor Gilliland would comment on whether the charge filed against Jost involved an altar boy he may have worked with.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Riverside Police Department.