

# Province to Combine Two Dioceses

On Easter Monday, the Most Rev. James E. Provence announced the formation of a new diocese of the Anglican Province of Christ the King to be known as the Diocese of the Atlantic States.

In his announcement, the Archbishop said that for some time the bishops have discussed realignment of diocesan boundaries in order to strengthen the two small dioceses of the Eastern and Southern States. After considering several alternatives, they concluded that the best option is to combine those two and create a new Diocese of the Atlantic States.

By combining resources, the Diocese of the Atlantic States will be in a strong financial position, will benefit from a larger clergy base, and will be in a better position to evangelize.

The Diocese will consist of parishes in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina., and Washington, DC, as well as other states in the area as new parishes are added.

The Archbishop intends to convene the inaugural synod of the Diocese of the Atlantic States after Pentecost 2012. He will serve as Bishop Ordinary until a new bishop is elected and consecrated. Bishop William Wiygul, the recently retired Bishop of the Diocese of the Southern States, has offered to assist the Archbishop with parochial visits and confirmations. The Rev. Dr. John E. Upham, Jr., and the Rev. Blair W. Schultz will assist with the administration of the new diocese.✠