BAMBERA TO BECOME SCRANTON’S 10TH BISHOP

By Cecilia Baress

STAFF WRITER

Bishop-elect Bambera will serve diocese he grew up in

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amily members say Monsignor Joseph Bambera was a practicing Catholic from the day he informed them of his call to the priesthood.

The change did not phase his mother, Irene, who said her primary concern was that her son get a college education.

A little is a surprise, but I’m happy she made the decision.

As her son’s life takes another unan-

tended turn — as 10th bishop of the Diocese of Scranton — Monsignor Bambera could not be prouder. “I think if every mother had a son like him, their lives would be fulfilled,” she said.

Monsignor Bambera is the sec-

ond, local priest to lead the diocese.

Stroudsburg, remembers her young-

est brother as a caring and thought-

ful boy who loved to draw and was an

altar server at church.

He thoroughly enjoys being
dedicated, she said.

A Carbondale native born in 1956, Monsignor Bambera brings a wealth of experience to his position, having assumed many diverse assignments throughout his career, the Rev. William O’Hara had 24 priests to serve the 8,466 square miles of the Diocese of Scranton. It was created from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1889. Bishop O’Hara took over the 8,468 square miles of the Diocese of Scranton, which was under the jurisdiction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

His neices and nephews, Elizabeth and Charles Hoffman, are the bishop’s primary relatives. Monsignor Bambera is the second local priest to lead the diocese.

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Bishop Hannan was remembered for his "fatherly" approach to ministry, calling him a "man of the people" by local priests and people.

Bishop Thomas C. O’Reilly, 1928-1937:

Bishop Hoffman as an intelligent and engaging contemporary.

Bishop Michael J. Iwan, 1928-1939:

A round, silk skullcap worn by the bishop. The caps were presented to Bishop Hoffman.

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