Two Spines

Above is the portrait of the backbone of a youth who went on a New Year's party and missed Mass on a holyday of obligation because his fiancée wouldn't be backwoods for the world. He chose to offend God rather than woman. Medical Note -- That sort of backbone is hereditary; they can expect it to appear in their children.

Above is the portrait of the backbone of a husky youth who took his beatings rather than go out of a New Year's Eve with the gang. They called him sissy. He was satisfied. He attended Mass and received Holy Communion on the first day of the new year. Medical Note -- That sort of backbone is heredity; he can expect to have tough babies.

It would be worth living twenty years just to see how these two men turn out. The black-and-blue boy didn't have reddish eyes and a dark brown taste in his mouth.

How About The Novena For Health?

It began this morning. You may need it before another week is over; your folks may need it now. The chance that three thousand of us will go through the next five months without a death are mighty slim, when even California has a death rate of 12 per thousand. If we pray hard God may grant us that favor.

Starter: Satan.

Pastors estimate that since the devil took charge of the New Year celebrations, approximately 40% of the young people in their congregations miss Mass by not being there, and an additional 20% miss Mass by not being in condition to hear it when they get there. That's a swell start -- under a swell starter. God is patient. God was patient for a long time before He sent the Flood. God was patient for a long time before He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. There is always an end to patience.

PRAYERS: Sister Susanna and Sister Lourdes, of the local convent, both very ill; John Cary's grandmother, ill, and aunt, deceased; the deceased father of Brother Martin, C.S.C.; Dr. Leo Dwan ('04) and his wife, who suffered possibly fatal injuries in a recent auto accident. Colman O'Shaughnessy thanks you for the prayers said recently for his sister, who was badly injured in an auto accident. Three thanksgivings.