

THOUGHTS ON THE EUGHARIST

*"A certain man made a great supper and invited many."
St Luke XIV, 16*



WE all know the story of the Gospel recital which St Luke puts so vividly before us, and we do not tire of the pathetic figure of that "certain man" as he despatched his servant with the love-message to his select friends. The lesson he learned from them was a painful one. His deep, life-long friendship and desire to please them were thrown in the balance and outweighed by things which might so easily have been done outside of the hour set apart for the great Supper. One desired to see the broad acres he had purchased; another had his five pair of oxen to buy and the third had a bride to please.

Was the great-hearted master justified in getting angry when the servant returned with the paltry excuses? Let those who have at different seasons issued invitations to a great banquet answer the question. What about the R. S. V. P. on the corner of the card?

And what about the dissection of all excuses framed and sent in? Human nature insists upon receiving a return value for the affection and pains-taking preparation for any invitation. A good intention clothes itself with power; therefore, we feel that the "certain man" had a right to resent the discourtesy. St Luke goes on with the recital: "The master said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in hither the feeble, the blind and the lame.' These all came and yet there was room for more. The generous-hearted master then issued his third invitation: 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled. This "certain man" was, as we see, neither weakminded nor weak-hearted and we are glad that the outburst of his injured