

## Knights of Pythias

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“Knights of Pythias, a brotherhood organized to disseminate the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence. The order was founded at Washington, D. C., 19 Feb. 1864, by Justus Henry Rathbone and four associates. An official declaration affirms that ‘toleration in religion, obedience to law, and loyalty to government’ are its three cardinal tenets. The theme upon which the entire fabric of the society rests is the story of Damon and Pythias,--friendship even upon death being a paramount doctrine.”

Statistics – The reports for 1903 show 562,327 members gathered in 6,992 subordinate lodges, governed by 54 grand lodges, and a supreme lodge.