Faithful fight for justice

Kayla Gagnet

On a chilly Thanksgiving morning, he was eager to give thanks. No mention of the black-cancer and lymphoma, such poisoning his being. Or the ill effects of his chemotherapy making it almost impossible to stand for more than an hour at a time. So the serene in his well water that he bought poisoned him for years.

At Thanksgiving Mass, the first to weeks to be held in the newly renovated St. Anne's Church, the local priest Bill Rogalla stood at the podium.

"The cancer I have, it's very possible I wouldn't be here today," he said during his homily. "But God saw fit to bless the day that I was here. I was born on the 14th of April, 1943."

In the unincorporated communities known as "the islands" - Rigolets, Fords Island and Pecan Island - Rogalla is a leader. "I have been here for many years and that's a role I take seriously."

"I have been the point of contact for state agencies, people looking to help and residents concerned about their health."

"We had two more ladies get brain cancer after we finished the cancer surveys," Rogalla said in November. "He shook his head at the injustice."

"But he's still very active for what he's going through." Rogalla has had to step back and take care of his chemotherapy. "I don't have the energy I had when I was a young man, but I still want to get clean water to the people."

Rogalla's passion for the community and its people has put him in the center of what has become a pervasive community issue. He has been the point of contact for state agencies, residents looking to help and residents concerned about their health.

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter," Rogalla said.

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter," Rogalla said. "We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter."

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter."

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter."

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter."

"We're just very grateful that someone finally dug into this matter."